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Wednesday 1 October 1997 (15p) 45p No 3,416

16.17/FASHION

Highlights from a great week for London style



21/COMMENT

Grow old disgracefully says Suzanne Moore

TODAY'S NEWS

Psychiatrists' row over recovered memory

Recovered memories of sexual abuse – so-called recovered memory syndrome – "have no basis in reality", according to a committee of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. But its report has proved so inflammatory that it will not be published under the college's name: psychiatrists remain angrily divided over the issue. Page 3

Gay court victory

A lesbian couple yesterday won a ruling from the European Court that could transform employers' behaviour towards all of Europe's 35 million gay men and lesbian women. The court decided that South West Trains had discriminated against their employee by denying a rail pass for her partner – in effect confirming that gay partners should be treated in the same way as heterosexual partners. Page 8

Unsupervised ops

Trainee doctors and anaesthetists are performing operations unsupervised. The patients are at most risk when being operated on in evening and early morning surgery, when senior staff are less likely to be around the hospital. Page 5

AND WELCOME...

Welcome to all those new readers who have arrived with the Independent since we re-fashioned the paper in its new form. Evidently those who tried it in the first week liked what they saw. Last week we estimate that there were nearly 90,000 more people reading the Independent on average each day than before the change. Stick around: we are confident you will grow to like it even more.

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Radical, Tony, you may be. But what kind of radical, exactly?



An ambition to change Britain into a radical beacon for the 21st century was raised by Tony Blair in Brighton yesterday. But what does radical mean to him? Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, sifts through the rhetoric in search of definition.

Compassion with a hard edge, high ideals and hard choices were promised in the first conference speech from a Labour Prime Minister since 1976.

Mr Blair said he wanted a government "not popular for one time, but remembered for all time."

"Not just a better government than the Tories, but one of the great, radical, reforming governments of British history."

"Today I say to the British people: the chains of mediocrity have been broken, the tired days are behind us, we are free to excel once more," he told the packed hall with standing room only and numerous overspills.

"We are free to build that model 21st-century nation, to become that beacon to the world."

But beyond that call for a new patriotism, the substance of the speech – the hard promises backed by hard cash – was more careful, if not cautious, and more manageable.

On education, the Prime Minister said he wanted, "the high ideal of the best schools in the world. Reached through hard choices."

That meant that by 2002 – the year of the next general election – all 32,000 schools in Britain would have modern computers; 10,000 schools would have benefited from a £200 repair and equipment programme; four out of every five 11-year-olds should have hit a new literacy target; and an extra 500,000 students would have gone into higher and further education.

But the small print of a Whitehall press brief suggested that the £2bn for repairs was based on the Budget commitment of £1.3bn from the windfall tax – boosted by the "hope" that other, private sources would contribute £700m.

Mr Blair's commitment on welfare was even less clear-cut, although he did say he

would not rest "until all our children live in a Britain where no child goes hungry, the young are employed, and the old are cherished, valued to the end of their days".

The underlying principle of the welfare reform package to be offered in a Green Paper early next year would appear to be more self-provision – without tax increases, but freeing more money for education and health.

"It means getting money out of social failure and into schools, into hospitals where we want to see it," Mr Blair said, adding: "We need a modern welfare that

every of healthcare. The Department of Health said: "This will involve ... re-shaping the way services are organised to meet new needs."

While some Lottery money could be made available, along with private finance, for the zone pilots, the health department added: "They will be funded in the main from making the existing budgets ... work harder."

In spite of prior spin, in the weekend newspapers, which built up Mr Blair's commitment to tackle global warming as one of the big issues of the speech, he devoted just one paragraph to it, referring delegates to report by the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Robert May, being published in London.

He gave no detail, but urged the delegates to "read it and you will see why I am so passionate in my commitment to action". The commitment was not specified.

The most vague section of the speech was about an issue that deeply concerns the Prime Minister – the family.

"We cannot say we want a strong and secure society when we ignore its very foundation: family life," he told delegates.

Speaking as "a modern man", Mr Blair said the modern crisis was producing nearly 100,000 teenage pregnancies a year; children growing up without role models; more and deeper poverty; more crime; more truancy; "and above all more unhappiness".

Mr Blair's answer was to set up a Cabinet committee, under the Home Secretary Jack Straw, which would explore every policy, every initiative, every avenue – to see how families could be strengthened.

But in the end, Mr Blair warned, the "quiet revolution" he was promising for education, health and welfare meant not only hard choices, but involvement.

"We need to bring a change, too, in the way we treat each other," he said. "I tell you, a decent society is not based on rights. It is based on duty. Our duty to each other. To all should be given opportunity, from all responsibility demanded."

Mr Blair's adaptation of the old Marxist dictum, "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs", was an appropriate benchmark for the change he has wrought in the Labour Party. Next, he was saying, he wanted to change Britain. And after that, the world.

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The French Catholic church yesterday apologised, to God and to the Jewish people, for its failure to speak out against the persecution of Jews by the Vichy regime during the Second World War.

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PEOPLE



Heseltine to give Tory party conference a miss

Michael Heseltine has fuelled speculation that he may stand down from the Commons, after telling Lord Parkinson he will not attend next week's party conference in Blackpool, to make way for a "new generation" at the top.

Few speakers could have rallied the Conservatives like Mr Heseltine, and their new leader, William Hague, could have used all the help he could get to lift his troops after their election defeat. If it is Mr Heseltine's last appearance on the conference podium, it marks the end of an era of barnstorming performances. The last time he was in Blackpool, he marched on to the platform to pounce for Labour for shifting to the "left, left, left" and did PT exercises to show he was fit after his first heart attack. His floppy blond quiff was a conference favourite for the party faithful, who forgave him for bringing down the "Iron Lady". But next week he

will not be there and the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, will not seem the same without him. The former deputy prime minister and first secretary told Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, he would not be around because of business commitments. However, the party will feel that someone of "Hezzi's" appeal could have rearranged his diary to be there.

A party source said: "He spoke to Lord Parkinson saying ... there was a new generation coming up. They are young. The shadow cabinet have got other things to do." Another source denied Mr Heseltine's absence was a snub to Mr Hague. Mr Heseltine recently told friends he may take life easier but did not intend standing down from his Henley seat until the next election. That will not stop speculation that he could be prepared to make way for Chris Patten, former governor of Hong Kong, to return to Parliament, to bolster or replace Mr Hague.

Academic in dust-up over book 'based on a hoax'

David Selbourne, philosopher and former Oxford academic who had a public falling-out with Ruskin College a decade ago, is at odds with the academic establishment again, this time in the US.

Little Brown, has postponed publication of his latest book, *The City of Light*, after scholars said they thought it was based on a hoax. The book is his translation of a manuscript his publishers and the *New York Times* presented as likely to rewrite history - if genuine. An account of a visit to China by Jacob d'Ancona, a 13th-century Italian, it was said to predate Marco Polo's account of his journey to China by four years.

But pre-publication publicity brought a chorus of dismissal from US sinologists. Jonathan Spence, a historian at Yale, said that when he reviewed the book he would dismiss it as a fake, arguing in particular that descriptions of daily life, philosophical concepts and sexual practices did not accord with what is known of the times.

Selbourne, who lives in Italy, says he was allowed to see the manuscript and publish his translated edition of it only on condition that he did not show the original text to anyone else or divulge any information about its owner. This, according to his critics, leaves a big question-mark over its authenticity.

- Mary Dejevsky

Blair secretary to head new poverty unit

Moira Wallace, private secretary to Tony Blair and formerly to John Major, has been chosen to head up the Government's new social-exclusion unit.

The taskforce, announced by Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, in August, will work across departments and aims to develop policies to prevent social problems as well as combating deprivation.

Ms Wallace, 36, a graduate of Cambridge and a former Kennedy scholar at Harvard, is at present number three in the Prime Minister's private office in a role which includes Treasury, education, social security and trade and industry matters.

A high-flying career civil servant, she held the same post under Mr Major when he was at Number 10 and was also private secretary for Mr Major and Nigel Lawson when they were chancellors, working on public spending. She was made OBE in Mr Major's resignation honours.

She is said to see the core of the job as "making government work better" while providing a channel to Whitehall for people with successful local projects who could help identify ways in which government policies could be made to gel with what is known of the times.

- Glenda Cooper

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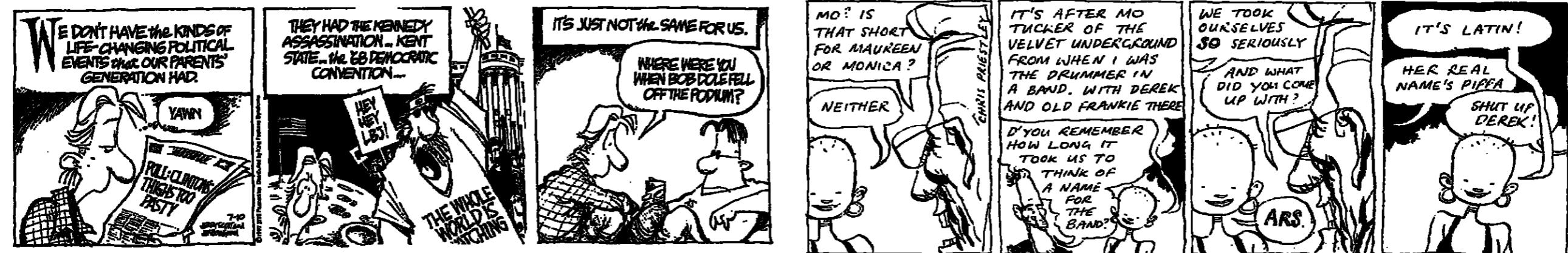
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UPDATE

HEALTH

Death rate of young men rises

Men in their late 20s and 30s are failing to share in a general improvement in health and life expectancy, the Government's Chief Medical Officer said yesterday.

Death rates among men aged 25 to 39 are increasing, while those among all other age groups are decreasing, chiefly because of an increase in violence, drinking and suicide, Sir Kenneth Calman said. Deaths related to drug misuse and accidental poisoning have increased almost sixfold among men aged 40-44 since 1986.

Launching his annual report *On the State of the Public Health 1996*, Sir Kenneth said that although the general health of the population was improving there remained big inequalities between social classes and a continuing excess of deaths in the winter. The report focuses on problems faced by the 7.3 million people with a disability aged over 10 and highlights the increasing attention being paid to domestic violence, which accounts for one in four of all assaults and has serious consequences for children as well as imposing a heavy burden on hospital accident and emergency departments. Sir Kenneth said medical and other staff dealing with women injured in domestic violence often failed to pick up what was going on.

— Jeremy Lawrence

MEDIA

Diana coverage set record

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales was the subject of more newspaper coverage than even the most dramatic events of the Second World War and set a media record, according to a press-cuttings agency.

The assassination of President John Kennedy and shooting of John Lennon "pale into insignificance" in terms of column inches in the press, said Durrants Press Cuttings, which monitors 200,000 newspapers and magazines a year. No other subject in the agency's archives, which

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Abuse claims may be all in the mind

A new report on diagnosing childhood sexual abuse has split the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The study, which says false memories can be planted in patients' mind, has caused a furious row.

Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, investigates.

The question of whether forgotten memories of childhood sexual abuse can be brought back with the aid of therapy has been bitterly contested ever since the first cases emerged in the United States over the past decade.

Now a new committee set up by the Royal College of Psychiatrists has said that many recovered memories of sexual abuse "have no basis in reality". It has provoked such intense anger amongst college members that it will not be published under the college's name.

The college is split between those who are sceptical that recovered memories have their basis in fact and those with a conviction that the memories of disturbed patients must be both believed and followed up.

One member of the working party which wrote the report has refused to put his name to it. Another source said the original report was so "inflammatory" that it read like "the British False Memory Society's newsletter".

Many accused parents claim their family lives have been destroyed by fantasies planted by unscrupulous therapists in their children's minds. In one case, Gary Ramona, a Californian business executive, won £335,000 compensation after his daughter who was undergoing regression therapy accused him of rape.

But those who say they have been abused, such as the American comedienne Roseanne Barr, argue that if it is possible for war victims to block out horrific events, why should that not be true of sexual abuse?

The report, which will be published under the names of the working party instead of the college is blunt - false memories can be planted in patients' minds by psychiatrists. "It's possible to have entirely false memories not based on events in reality," said the chairman of the working party, Professor Sydney Brandon, yesterday. "This



A Royal College of Psychiatry working party has reported "It's possible to have entirely false memories not based on events in reality". Photograph: Philip Meech

has not been stated unequivocally in the past."

But the forensic, developmental and psychotherapy committees in particular refused to accept its findings. They also raised questions over two members' links to the British False Memory Society, which represents parents who say they have been wrongly accused.

As a result, only a set of nine guidelines have been agreed by the college. The recommendations say that the college recognises the "severity and significance" of child

sexual abuse and say that the welfare of the patient should be the first concern.

It warns psychiatrists off using "memory recovery techniques" such as hypnosis, regression, guided imagery and literal dream interpretation saying there is "no evidence" such techniques can reveal or elaborate factual information about abuse. "Forceful" or "persuasive" interviewing techniques are also not acceptable.

Outside the consulting room, psychiatrists should not encourage or discourage legal action but if the case is reported psy-

chiatrists should be prepared to state clearly if the grounds of the action are inadequate or unreasonable.

The president of the college, Dr Robert Kendall, said that it was "not surprising" that the college had not been able to produce a report which they all agreed on. "The college decided it would be silly to publish a report under the name of the college which some members of college wished to disassociate themselves from," he said.

A spokeswoman for the British False Memory Society said the recommendations

were a "first step towards protecting future patients and their families from the utter devastation that a false allegation of childhood sexual abuse can bring."

But Marjorie Orr, of Accuracy About Abuse, said that the recommendations "would do damage... because it reinforces the culture of disbelief for abuse survivors whether they have never forgotten their abuse as well as those who have forgotten," she said. "There is a huge problem with psychiatrists because they do not listen to the abuse survivors."

'You can do nothing when you're wrongly accused. No one wants to know'

"I thought 'Is this real? Am I awake?'" said Sheila the day her son-in-law came round to tell her and her husband Joe that their only daughter said that she remembered being abused by them.

More than three years later the couple have not seen their only daughter or their grandchildren since. In the last few weeks Sheila's mother has become terminally ill but their daughter still refuses to get in touch.

Joe and Sheila's daughter first went for counselling after she suffered post-natal depression following the birth of her second child. She was training to be a nurse and she and her husband had considerable financial problems. It was a difficult time.

But after five years of therapy she began to accuse those around her of abuse -

culminating in accusations against her parents. Her husband came round to tell them. "I was horrified. I just couldn't believe it. I immediately thought she must be mentally ill," said Sheila. We had been so close." "Not a day went past when she didn't pop in for a coffee," added Joe.

Sheila's mother has also been cut off by her granddaughter, so she cannot see her great grandchildren. "We've made sure that [our daughter] knows she's ill but she's refusing to get in touch. She hasn't even sent a get-well card," says Joe. Police and social services investigated the allegations but said the couple, found no evidence of abuse. The family are now considering suing their daughter's therapist. "You can do nothing if you are falsely accused," said Joe. "No one wants to know."

They welcomed the guidelines published today. "I'm a little bit disappointed that there seems to have been such an argument by the psychiatrists. And I don't think they go far enough. I think a law should be passed meaning any case of recovered memory should be investigated properly," said Joe.

"I think they should accept the fact and talk to people like us before they make reports. But then psychiatrists are only part of the problem. We need to look at the psychologists and therapists as well."

For them they feel it is too late and nothing can turn back the clock. "I can't think of anything worse than has happened to us," said Sheila. "It's the end of the family. We are virtually on our own."

— Glenda Cooper

Joe and Sheila are considering suing the therapist with whom their daughter said she had recovered memory of child abuse. Photograph: Tim Smith/Guzelian

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Deborah Warner
talks exclusively
about her Royal
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The Turn of the Screw

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Wall Street and Hollywood cash in on the rock of ages

It has been eight months since David Bowie pocketed \$55m in a pioneering bond sale backed by future earnings from his hit records. Now all of Wall Street is screaming 'Let's Dance' as deal-makers spy a whole new financial market based on rock'n'roll entertainers. David Usborne feels the beat.

It is Monday at The House of Blues, a night club in West Hollywood favoured by the well-heeled with a taste for rock'n'roll and cocktails in not-too-scummy surroundings. The clientele, however, is even more starch-collared than usual. They are the financial managers of some of our best known entertainment stars. Milling amongst them is a delegation from Nomura Securities.

Soon, the lights go up and, bass guitar swinging, Ozzy Osbourne swaggers onto the stage. To whoops and applause he accompanies the less than legendary crooner, Ethan Penner, in a duet rendition of "Born to be Wild".

Not familiar with the recordings of Ethan Penner? You are not alone, because Mr Penner is better known for activities other than singing. He is the President of Nomura Asset Capital Corp, a subsidiary of New York-based Nomura Securities, itself an arm of the giant Nomura Bank of Japan.

Mr Penner and his associates were in West Hollywood on a high-stakes mission: to seek out real stars of the music universe who may be willing to emulate a ground-breaking bond deal struck by David Bowie last February.

Few needed educating on the "Bowie bond" affair. With

help from a white-shoe investment bank in Manhattan named Fahnestock & Co, Bowie engineered a package which at the time stunned the music and financial community alike. He raised \$55m for himself (£33m) through the issue of bonds which were sold to Prudential Insurance.

The concept for the Bowie bonds was straightforward. While Bowie had not had a hit since the release of "Let's Dance" 10 years ago, he was assured a steady stream of income from the earnings from his still-popular songs. That

flow of money guaranteed the bonds. In buying them, Prudential meanwhile was promised a fixed interest rate of 7.9 per cent.

Thus, with Wall Street's help, Bowie won access overnight to wealth that would otherwise have dribbled in over a period of years. It was a coup that turned many of his peers in the music and entertainment business a deep shade of green. And other banks are hoping to tap that envy.

Bear Stearns, another leader of the Wall Street pack, has also announced plans to package so-called entertainment bonds. While Nomura is most inter-

ested in buying the bonds for its own profit - it has established a \$1bn fund for that purpose - Bear Stearns hopes to sell them on to third investors, taking a hefty fee along the way.

The prospects look good. Bowie is only one of a large reservoir of acts that have shown themselves to have had unexpected longevity. The Rolling Stones, who have just embarked on another world tour and have similar hopes of long-term earnings, have been rumoured to be negotiating a similar deal.

Selling such bonds is made easier by booming market for the music, however ancient, of performers like Bowie, the Stones or Fleetwood Mac in far away markets like China and South-east Asia.

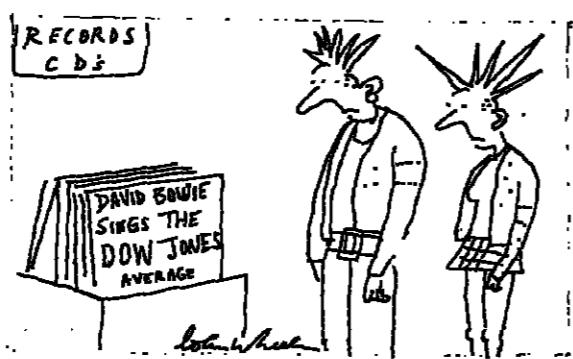
It also helps that new technology, such as the switch from vinyl to CD discs, offers further increments in earnings for such acts.

The audience at The House of Blues seemed to like the idea. "I think it's kind of the future," declared Ron Stone, who represents Bonnie Raitt and Tracy Chapman. "I think that now we're connecting and making sense. I've got to do my homework and see how much money we're talking about. If it's sizeable, then yes, I'll go to my clients".

The notion of tapping earnings from music and recording royalties long before they actually come in is appealing in many regards. It can help with tax, for instance by allowing heirs to pay inheritance taxes without having to liquidate inherited assets. Such large amounts of money can also help fund new projects such as tours and films.

And Mr Penner, microphone discarded, was equally enthusiastic. "We have the potential in many ways of defining the way business is financed," he said on Monday.

WHO'S NEXT FOR BOWIE BONDS



It isn't necessary to be a megastar to follow in the financial footsteps of David Bowie; but it helps. The key is to have a reliable future stream of income, so would-be stars, or those whose careers are just starting out and are hence unpredictable, should probably think again.

Other names rumoured to be interested in Bowie bonds include The Rolling Stones, Crosby Stills and Nash, and Rod Stewart, rumoured to be close to signing a deal.

But the Bowie bonds need not be restricted simply to rock stars. Nomura hopes to arrange such deals for celebrities in a range of fields, just so long as the outlook for long-term cash flow is healthy. They could be actors, sporting stars, even writers. "We're looking at an entire industry," said Mr Penner, "from John Grisham to Warner Brothers."

"The idea is starting to flesh out," said Cara Burns, a lawyer representing the music star Don Henley and the golfer Tiger Woods. Her concerns, she said, would include ensuring that her client retains full ownership of the property, such as a music catalogue, and the tax implications.



Shouting the odds: Ozzy Osbourne, who launched a rock bond scheme, seems to make an unlikely source of profit for Wall Street moguls

Photograph: David Sandison

Why banking's big shots swoon as they see a fistful of dollars in the stars

Wall Street has a message for David Bowie. Thank you, thank you, thank you. When times are boozing - like now - the brokerage boys go crazy trying to dream up new ways to draw in the dollars of investors who themselves are scouring the horizon for new places to invest their rivers of fresh money.

In fact, the Bowie bonds have everyone swooning.

Any star with a real prospect of long-term earnings, most probably from royalties, can expect a sudden, up-front, dose of cash.

The banks rake in giant fees for arranging the deals. And the investors themselves have what should be a surefire success.

Such deals are less exotic than may first appear. For years, markets have traded in bonds guaranteed by future cash flows that can be reliably predicted. Mortgage-backed bonds are the most obvious and popular example.

Called fixed-income securities, they are attractive for investors who buy them. Over a fixed period, say ten years, they are assured a set rate of interest.

They pocket that interest, and get their original money back when the bonds mature. Thus they are less risky than stocks and shares which are vulnerable to the surges, but also the sudden falls, of the markets.

In recent years, the range of asset-backed bonds has broadened ferociously. Several US cities are raising cash, for instance, by selling bonds backed by unpaid parking fines.

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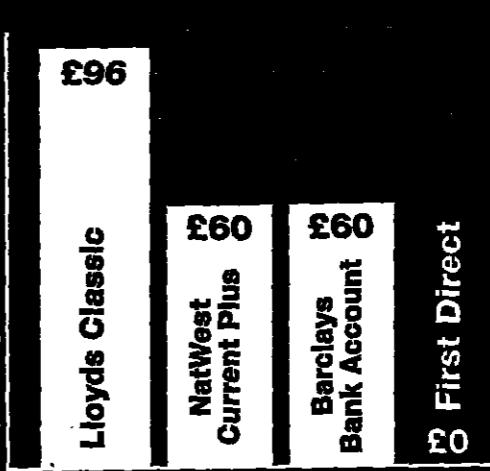
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6/LABOUR CONFERENCE

Blunkett to put £50m into literacy campaign

A £50m standards fund to improve literacy and numeracy will be announced today by David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education.

Judith Judd, Education Editor, explains where the money will come from and how the initiative fits in to the Government's schools programme.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, will today announce a £50m standards fund to be used for initiatives such as training for primary school teachers in how to improve their teaching of reading.

The money, which will be available next year, will come mainly from the Grants for Education Support and Training (Gest) fund which pays out cash to local education authorities for specific projects. However, some extra money will come from other parts of the education budget.

Mr Blunkett is insisting that traditional methods such as phonics should play a part in teaching reading. Schools which are struggling to raise standards will be sent specially appointed consultants. There will also be two days training next summer for the head, literacy co-ordinator and a governor from every primary school.

Secondary schools are expected to benefit from pro-

jects to teach pupils who fail to learn to read in primary school.

Mr Blunkett will confirm a promise to make next year (1998/9) the National Year of Reading. The Government will fund an advertising campaign urging parents to read with their children at home for at least 20 minutes each day.

At present, the Government finds 60 per cent of the money for most Gest projects while local education authorities find the remainder. From next year that will decrease to 50 per cent.

As the Prime Minister reminded the Labour Party conference yesterday, the Government has set bold targets of 80 per cent of 11-year-olds reaching the expected standard in literacy by 2002 and 75 per cent doing so in numeracy.

Mr Blair also repeated his promise to reverse the Conservatives' policy of cutting spending on education. The last government, he said, had planned to cut from £33m to £43m the money that came from the Home Office to help children from homes where English is a second language, making redundant 7,000 teachers and classroom assistants. "Today I announce that Tory cut will not stand," he said.

Comprehensive school campaigners said that government proposals for parents to vote on the future of grammar schools would make it very difficult to end selection. The Campaign for the Advancement of State Education said that the proposal to require 20 per cent of eligible parents to call for a ballot would force organisers to collect thousands of signatures.



The South Coast Show: Melvyn Bragg chats to Mick Hucknall of the pop group Simply Red. Photograph: Brian Harris

Dobson gets back on-message

Fine words about health workers had to be backed up by more spending, Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, was told yesterday by Rodney Bickerstaffe, leader of Unison, the main NHS union.

Mr Bickerstaffe told the Labour conference that "it would be a shame if this winter we face again bed closures, ward closures, hospital closures – and those things are on the cards if more resources are not found in some way".

Mr Dobson denied being "sat on" by the leadership after he dropped an explicit threat to sack people from health boards who had private health insurance. There has been continuing speculation that Mr Dobson could be dropped by Tony Blair in his next reshuffle for going "off message" in the past.

Briefing about the speech is believed to have the leadership, and remarks which were in the text at 5pm on Monday were dropped.

He was expected to say: "People who don't use the health service won't be running it from now on." That was replaced by a more general commitment: "How can people who don't use local hospitals know enough about them to run them?"

— Colin Brown

The Great Masseur flexes his fingertips

On Monday night the young woman sitting in front of me at a slightly tedious fringe meeting began to massage her boyfriend's neck. This was no momentary affectionate stroke; it was the full Monty. She slipped her fingers under his collar and kneaded the soft flesh, moved her hand up to the back of his crown and – with her right thumb – vigorously rubbed his number-four crop, dropped back down to his nape and squeezed rhythmically, till the skin reddened. And then stroked again.

When – at last – she stopped, her previously wilting companion was feeling much, much better. He had had the tough but tender treatment: compassion with a hard edge.

Imagine this trick now repeated on an epic scale. For yesterday at just after 2.30pm, Mr Blair – the Great Masseur – entered the hall in Brighton to some rousing organ music (and, indeed, I dare say that many organs were roused by it). In essence, the Prime Minister's task was the same as my anonymous young lady's, to give pleasure and

pain in the right quantities, in order to benefit the whole.

Broadly, then, he required the same two basic techniques. And – on mounting the podium – he deployed them both. First came the delicious fluttering of executive fingertips around the erogenous zones of his party and the country.

gallery shouted "Hear, hear" so emphatically that she nearly expired. Cherished and valued, naturally.

But in between the nice, squirmy bits, there was the hard kneading to be done – or, as he put it (to a little shiver of anticipation in the hall): "A strong society cannot be built on soft choices."

BRIGHTON SKETCH
BY DAVID AARONOVITCH

So, there was a new target of two billion smackers to be spent on school buildings – 700 million more than before (tickle, tickle). There would be half a million extra students in higher education by 2002 (caress). And – more generally – he would not rest until we had a Britain in which "no child goes hungry, the young are employed and the old are cherished and valued until the end of their days" (at which point an old lady in the

PM's thumbs dig painfully into our flabby psyches, determinedly manipulating the muscles and fat right down to the bone). To get to Nirvana we'd have to suffer, surely?

And he did tell us that the welfare state would have to be "fundamentally reformed", that it must "encourage work not dependency". But, abruptly, the thumbs retreated, and moved on to another part of the body politic. Housing ben-

efit "has to change". The thumbs had shifted again. Then, the NHS "needs modernisation". Oh yes!

This was an area, like the buttocks, that needed some real work. But, once more, he'd moved on.

Finally, for a few moments the Great Masseur stroked some of his own aching joints and tender parts. He rubbed his *pluralist maximus*, referring to the need for a radical realignment in politics, redefined his Britain, and, above all, brandished his beacon to the world.

In fact, "beacons" were mentioned many times. The trouble is that most young people have never heard of beacons. They have, however, drunk their juice from beakers, and are even now asking their parents why that nice Mr Blair wants Britain to be a "beaker for the 21st Century".

But that is a quibble. In this touchy-feely Dianic era, the Great Masseur, with his "make this the giving age" did well. Next time, though, he'll have to use a bit more of the thumb. Like Ms X's boyfriend, we need to feel the pain.

Party in the red after £23m election campaign

Labour spent £23m on the general election campaign – twice the amount it spent in 1992 – and is now millions of pounds in the red, the party was told yesterday, by its treasurer, Margaret Prosser.

Party leaders hope to get the deficit down to £3.5m by the end of the year, but they are seeking a change in the law to avoid running into the red during the next election campaign.

Tony Blair has given a clear signal that Labour could seek a cap on spending by the main parties for the next general election, as reported last week in *The Independent*.

The Prime Minister said in his keynote address that Labour would ask the Nolan Committee on standards in public life to look at party funding, and to come up with recommendations for changes in the law. "At the next election, all political parties will at last compete on a level playing field."

Ms Prosser said that, with "belt-tightening and good husbandry", the overdraft in the general fund would be kept down to £3.5m by the end of the year, and there would be a "small, declining" overdraft in the general election fund. She promised that the pace of fund-raising would not diminish.

"The party cannot achieve its political objectives in one term. My job is to chivvy everyone along and make sure the next election war-chest builds up."

Defending the amount Labour spent on the election, Ms Prosser said the £23m spent between 1993 and 1 May this year had produced a "powerful, imaginative and high-powered campaign".

She added: "It was at the same time ... focused and reached all corners of the UK and all levels of society."

— Colin Brown

Challenge on Europe

Pauline Green, leader of Labour's MEPs, told the conference that Tony Blair's Government should "take the lead in shaping the future of Europe" and embrace membership of a single currency.

Delegates were also urged by the Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres not just to climb aboard the European train but to get into the engine room.

Ms Green said Labour's election had given the socialist family a majority in the EU. But she warned: "What goes with that predominance is the responsibility to make a difference."

The "direction, tone and effectiveness" of the new Government had already had an impact in Europe and Britain now had the chance to "offer some leadership", she said.

SEEN & HEARD

"Twenty years ago the IMF came to bury us. Now they come to praise us. Yes, new Labour's got friends everywhere."

— Tony Blair

"There are still times in Northern Ireland when the sheer rawness of the sectarian hatred and bigotry never ceases to surprise me."

— Mo Mowlam

"It is like going through composting all over again. It insults a nation of intelligent, enlightened people." (Attack on the stereotyping of the Irish in *EastEnders*)

— Nick Nolan, Coventry NW

"I am a survivor of cancer: I joined the [cancer] awareness campaign and my husband said, 'You silly cow. You didn't have to get it'."

— Delegate in the health debate

"Tory leaders used to be born with a silver spoon in their mouth. This one was born with his foot in his mouth."

— Mary Turner, NEC member, in a debate on women

"We hope the hard edge is extended to those who can afford it."

— Rodney Bickerstaffe, on Tony Blair's speech

Today's agenda:

● David Blunkett defends his decision to charge fees to students, in the face of fierce criticism from some delegates.

● Harriet Harman tells the conference about her plans for the benefits system.

● John Prescott opens a debate on the 'One Nation Society' with a speech on housing.

● Michael Meacher on the Government's environment policy.

And on the fringe:

● Universities: Lifelong learning for all? Speakers include Baroness Tessa Blackstone.

● Pitch fever: The future of football. Tony Banks, minister for sport, and Peter Lee, chief executive of the Football Trust.

● Rationing in the NHS: A fair system for all? With Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health.

● Save Britain's Fish. Speakers include Austin Mitchell MP, with fish and chip supper.

● Socialist campaign group of MPs: Diane Abbott, Dennis Skinner and Ken Livingstone celebrate their success in the NEC elections with Tony Benn, Jeremy Corbyn and Alan Simpson.

● Labour Campaign for Social Justice: Decent pensions for all. Baroness Barbara Castle calls for better treatment for the elderly.

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هذا من الأصل

مكالمات من الأصل

Warm reception: Mo Mowlam at conference yesterday
Photograph: Brian Harris

Mowlam prepares way to scrap internment

Powers of internment in Ulster are to be scrapped by the Government. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent says it was a power even the Tories dared not use.

The Emergency Powers Bill – one of three measures on Ulster being brought during the next session of Parliament – will scrap the power to imprison people without trial. It will also reduce the number of cases going to Diplock courts without juries.

Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, told a fringe meeting in Brighton that she would have preferred to go further, but she had to make a start. The

removal of internment powers – which could be reintroduced in a bill in 24 hours – could help to overcome criticism that she is not scrapping more anti-terrorist powers, such as exclusion orders.

The move is part of the confidence building measures promised at the election to bolster the ceasefire and encourage the parties to agree to a lasting settlement.

The powers were introduced at the height of the Troubles in August 1971 and last used in 1975, but they backfired disastrously, bringing international disapproval and proved a security failure.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the former Ulster secretary, resisted pressure to reintroduce internment during upsurges in terrorist violence, fearing they would inflame the situation.

However, the past Tory government insisted on keep-

Paisley calls on the faithful to pray for deliverance from talks

Sinn Fein and Ulster Unionist leaders sat across the table and agreed a framework for full-scale talks next week. But David McKittrick, Ireland Correspondent, says there is a powerful minority of "No Surrender" Unionists totally opposed to the dialogue.

Loyalist storm-clouds are gathering. The Rev Ian Paisley attempted to whip up opposition to the talks, when on Monday night he brought an estimated 2,000 supporters to the Ulster Hall in Belfast where they prayed together for deliverance from "the powers of darkness, the demon from the pits of hell".

They sang "The Sash my Father Wore" and "There'll Always be an Ulster", gave repeated standing ovations to Mr Paisley and his ally, Robert McCartney MP, and greeted mentions of the name of Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble with cries of "Lundy" and "trai-

tor". The battle lines were drawn, in other words, in a fight for the soul of Unionism.

Mr Paisley's approach was based upon tradition, both recent and ancient. His own tradition, seen repeatedly during the last three decades, is to oppose any moves in the direction of a compromise settlement.

But he and Mr McCartney both evoked the memory of Edward Carson, one of Unionism's most revered founding fathers, who in the same hall in 1912 declared the Protestants of Ulster ready to use "all means which may be found necessary" to oppose a united Ireland.

Mr McCartney endorsed Carson's words. Mr Paisley, meanwhile, recalled this was in the same hall in 1886 that Lord Randolph Churchill declared: "Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right." The two men, speaking as Carson did in front of a huge Union flag, accused the Government of trying to bring about Irish unity, calling on Mr Trimble to leave the talks and form a united Unionist front against the negotiations.

These appeals were not however couched in conciliatory terms; rather, they were accompanied by much personal

abuse and scorn directed against Mr Trimble and his party. At one stage Mr Paisley referred to Mr Trimble's party as "yellow-bellied".

He described some of those involved in the talks as scallywags and dinosaurs, referring to one senior official as "a very dangerous rascal, one of those very uncivil civil servants who would sell their grandmother for an OBE". He named and attacked a business leader who

has spoken out in favour of talks. These prophets of doom say that participation in talks is useless. I reject such pessimism."

Opinion polls and other evidence suggest that a large majority of Unionists approve of participation in talks but that, as attendance at the rally indicates, a minority is deeply opposed to such negotiations. The Paisley-McCartney rallies will provide a focal point for such opposition in the months ahead.

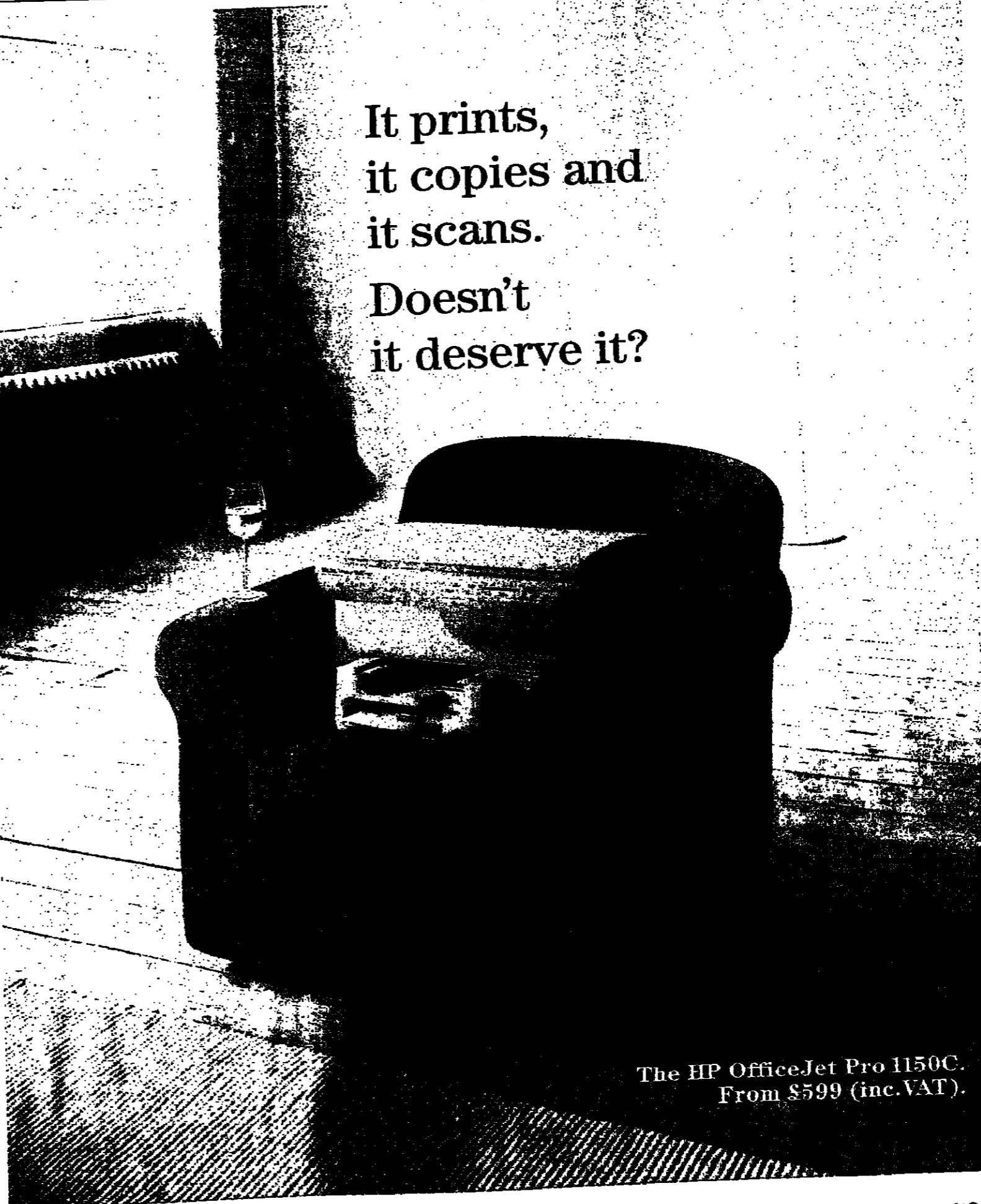
Inside the talks yesterday things went surprisingly smoothly with Sinn Fein, the Ulster Unionists and other parties agreeing an order of business which should see start of actual negotiations next week.

Two Ulster Unionists sat across the table from Martin McGuinness and another Sinn Fein representative for the first meeting of the business committee. It recommended that each of the complex strands for negotiation should be launched on the same day, possibly Tuesday of next week.

The atmosphere was said to be constructive, one source commenting: "There was little posturing – nobody put up false obstacles, everybody genuinely wanted to get down to business."



Not an inch: Edward Carson addressing Ulstermen



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Trainees carry out surgery unsupervised

One-fifth of out-of-hours surgery in hospitals is carried out by unsupervised junior doctors, a survey has found.

Jeremy Lourance, Health Editor, reports on the dangers of an ill-organised and under-resourced service.

Hospital patients are being compelled to undergo surgery late at night or in the early hours of the morning when senior staff are absent and back-up services are thin on the ground because they cannot be fitted in during the day.

Thousands of cases designated as emergencies and operated on at night could have waited until the following day when staff were fresh, senior surgeons were available should anything go wrong and the hospital was fully functioning, the survey by the National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths (deaths within 30 days of operation) found.

The health minister Baroness Jay said that the findings were "disturbing." She added: "Patients clearly have a right to expect that doctors will not perform procedures that are beyond their competence."

The survey of 355 National Health Service hospitals monitored for seven days found that about 3,500 week-

day operations were performed between 6pm and 8am, 6.1 per cent of the total, of which 428 were performed after midnight (less than 1 per cent). Extrapolated to the 400-plus hospitals in England and Wales, the findings imply that about 200,000 operations are performed out of hours every year, about 25,000 of them after midnight.

More than nine out of ten were designated emergencies but very few "emergencies" - including the most common, removal of an appendix - are so urgent that they cannot wait, the report says.

One in five operations out of hours was performed by an unsupervised senior house officer - usually a junior doctor with two years' clinical experience - and one in two was attended by an unsupervised SHO anaesthetist.

Evidence suggests that patients operated on at night or by unsupervised junior staff are at greater risk. Earlier reports from NCEPOD, established 10 years ago by the surgical Royal Colleges, found a disturbing number of patients who had died following out-of-hours operations, although the current study did not indicate excess deaths. Research on day cases has shown that patients operated on by fully trained consultants suffer fewer complications.

Professor John Blandy, chairman of the inquiry panel, said the number of operations performed out of



Against the clock: About 200,000 operations a year are performed between 6pm and 8am, 25,000 of them after midnight

hours was less than expected, especially during the "wee, small, dangerous hours" after midnight, but there was no room for complacency. Real emergencies were very rare. "Many of these patients could have

been admitted and operated on during the day but there was no time," he said.

Surgeons quoted in the survey il-

lustrate the pressure the NHS is under. A patient with a hand injury had

to wait 30 hours before being operated on at 1am because of "lack of operating time - theatre busy with general surgical cases."

Dr Stuart Ingram, one of the re-

port's authors, said the findings of the survey supported the call by the Royal College of Surgeons earlier in the summer for emergency work to be concentrated in half the present number of hospitals with the remainder doing routine work.

Abortions leapt after Pill scare

A government alert about an increased risk of blood clots for women taking the contraceptive Pill issued in October 1995 led to 30,000 extra conceptions and 10,000 extra abortions above those expected, according to a report published yesterday.

In response to the warning from the Committee on Safety of Medicines, thousands of women abandoned the Pill, despite official advice to continue with it to the end of the course and seek medical advice, putting themselves at immediate risk of pregnancy.

The result was a jump in conceptions and a rise in abortions to more than 120,000. The abortion rate for women aged 15-44 rose from 14.5 per 1,000 in October 1995 to 16 per 1,000 in June 1996, matching rates experienced in 1990, the highest since records began in 1969.

A study in *population trends*, published by the Office of National Statistics, suggests that one in twenty women who had been using the Pill may have stopped because of the warnings. Rebecca Wood, author of the report, said: "We don't know if teenagers at the start of their sexually active lives were put off from using the Pill. It is very likely that the Pill scare had some effect."

The Birth Control Trust, which provides information to women on dealing with unwanted pregnancies, said the scare was a "fiasco" which should never have happened" and predicted that abortion rates would remain high until public confidence in the Pill was restored.

Ann Furedi, director of the charity, said: "A pregnant woman faces a risk of thrombosis [blood clots] which is twice that faced by women on the allegedly 'more risky' pills". There has never been a satisfactory explanation from health officials for why they issued the advice they did in the way that they did."

— Jeremy Lourance

Fertility doctor left to face music in insurance firm fraud case

A fertility clinic doctor tied to one of the biggest medical scandals in US history was to go on trial in a California courtroom yesterday. But he did not face charges in the simple theft of women's eggs.

With his two former colleagues now plying their trade in Mexico and Chile, Dr Sergio Stone, a 55-year-

old endocrinologist was left to face the music for one of the most outrageous stories in the annals of American medicine.

Dr Stone could face a lengthy jail term after a US investigation of the University of California clinic where women's eggs and embryos were allegedly transplanted into other

women without their consent. The jury in what is expected to be a six-week trial, however, may never hear details of the convoluted scandal.

He is charged with 20 counts of mail and income tax fraud, each carrying five-year terms, after the inquiry revealed an unrelated scheme to defraud insurance companies, it

is alleged. His lawyers say he is being made a scapegoat.

It was in 1993 that university officials heard the first complaints from disgruntled staff that something was amiss at the university's Centre for Reproductive Health in Irvine, California. A story emerged of eggs harvested from women seeking fer-

tility treatments that were fertilised and then implanted in other patients, or shipped to medical research laboratories without their knowledge.

Dr Stone and his former colleagues, Dr Ricardo Asch and Dr Jose Balmaceda, were indicted by a grand jury last year, on charges that they "routinely skimmed cash from

the fertility clinics by using deceptive internal accounting practices".

But there are no extradition proceedings under way, and there was speculation yesterday that Dr Stone, who denies the charges, was paying the price for being the only one left on the scene.

— Tim Cornwell, Los Angeles

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Is the global warming rhetoric just hot air?

The Government's chief scientific adviser has set out the challenges presented by global warming. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, looks at what he has to say while (below right) Nicholas Schoon, Environment Correspondent, asks whether Tony Blair will be able to live up to his green rhetoric.

Slowing and then reversing global warming will initially be a struggle between two groups of developed countries: the "disbelievers", such as the United States, Canada and Australia, and "believers", such as the United Kingdom, allied with the rest of the European Union. Developing countries such as China will join the fray later: which side they join could be crucial to our future.

It may not help but the "believers" have science on their side. Sir Robert May, the UK government's chief scientific adviser, happens to be Australian, but that does not stop him criticising any country which drags its feet over action to stop global warming.

Sir Robert's 37-paragraph report, commissioned by the Prime Minister in the summer and written in the past couple of months, draws together work by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and some regional analyses carried out for the UK government last year.

If nobody acts, it shows that there will be an average global temperature rise of between 1.5C and 4.5C – probably 2.5C – by 2050, caused by a doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. Sea levels will rise by about 50cm (20in) as the warming oceans expand. Weather will become more variable and more extreme. If we act, the report offers various scenarios, depending on the final levels of carbon dioxide. "It's a long, slow process, like turning a ship around," Sir Robert said.

The likely venue for a first, important battle between the two groups of countries is December's meeting of senior government representatives in Kyoto, in central Japan.

Britain will be represented at the conference by John Prescott, the deputy Prime Minister.

As Tony Blair was speaking at the Labour Party's conference in Brighton yesterday, Sir Robert said: "We will go to Kyoto with the Government's manifesto commitment to reduce the UK's carbon dioxide output by 20 per cent by 2010. The EU is speaking of a 15 per cent reduction. That's a hell of a lot more than [US President Bill] Clinton is offering."

He thinks achieving that 20 per cent target will be "difficult" but we have aim for it".

Any commitments made in Kyoto to reductions will be legally binding – possibly with financial penalties for breaking them. Delegates are also exploring the idea of having "permits" allowing a certain amount of carbon-dioxide emission; these could be traded between companies within a country, or even between countries.

Sir Robert hinted that the UK might be prepared to accept a less stringent target if that would persuade other developed countries to reduce their emissions.

But some politicians in the US are suggesting that they could take action abroad – for example, planting forests in developing countries – to compensate for the global effects of their growing greenhouse gas outputs. "I'm like Oscar Wilde on that," said Sir Robert. "Given two temptations, take both. I'd want to see both happen. But of course in politics, I defer to politicians."



Meltdown: Ice thawing in the summer at Magnetic Island, Antarctica. If there is no action on global warming, sea levels could rise by 50cm by 2050

Photograph: John Arnould/EPA

Blair sticks to pledge to curb carbon dioxide emissions

The Prime Minister stuck to one

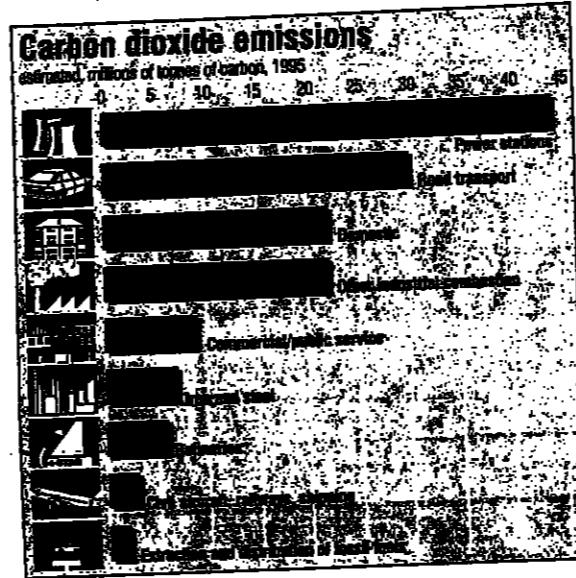
The real, inflation-adjusted prices of gas, heating oil and electricity is cheap compared to the averages over the past quarter century, and getting cheaper. Even petrol, despite being taxed more and more heavily, is not expensive compared to its price during previous post-war oil crises.

Consumption of energy is rising even faster than economic growth. People show no signs of using their cars less and switching to public transport, which produces less carbon dioxide per person moved.

Britain had to take the necessary action to curb emissions "and get the rest of the world to take that action too," he said, referring to the crucial international negotiating meeting in Kyoto, Japan, in December.

And that was it – just two sentences, no specifics and no new policies, despite Labour spin-doctors ensuring this green fragment of his speech got extensive advance publicity.

"We're very disappointed at



what was a wasted opportunity," said Tony Juniper, campaigns director with Friends of the Earth. "It's all very well him saying he is passionate about this issue, but what is actually going to happen?"

What is happening is that

John Prescott's Department of

the Environment, Transport and the Regions is negotiating with other key departments, particularly the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry, over options on how the 20 per cent emissions cut can be achieved.

The Treasury is resisting the

maximum possible cuts on the part of developed countries. The only other major industrialised nation willing to pledge cuts on such a deep scale is Germany, while the European Union as a whole is offering 10 to 15 per cent.

In the United States, the world's biggest user of fossil fuels, the Clinton administration has begun a belated but heavyweight campaign to make voters and industry take the threat of climate change seriously. But US energy companies have been banging home the message that curbs in oil, gas and coal consumption are a threat to the American way of life.

Will Mr Blair's two sentences make much difference? And if the other rich countries agree on only meagre action, or no action at all, will Britain stay out on a limb offering a drastic 20 per cent cut in emissions? Yesterday no one in government, from Mr Blair downwards, was offering any cast-iron guarantee that it would.

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UN tells off Taliban for taking offence

The United Nations yesterday said Afghanistan's Taliban rulers have no right to be offended by foreign aid workers who decline to follow local religious laws while on UN property.

Taliban officials disrupted a meeting last week at a UN office in Kandahar by demanding a visiting human rights lawyer give her presentation from behind a screen in the corner of the conference room. She did, but three male foreign aid workers walked out of the meeting in protest. The Taliban officials then expelled the three male workers, saying they had insulted Afghan traditions and ignored the law of the land.

The United Nations officially protested against the expulsion yesterday, saying UN premises are "extra-territorial", so Taliban officials had no right to try to enforce their laws at the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Taliban militia said its forces were standing at the gates of Mazar-i-Sharif, the besieged northern capital that is the last major city in opposition hands.

A Taliban spokesman said its forces were fighting around the city and their jets had bombed its outskirts yesterday.

— AP



Checking in: Workers waiting to have their produce weighed watch as a state farm controller removes extra carrots from a labourer's bag at the state collective farm at Zhdanovichi, 10 miles west of Minsk, in Belarus

Photograph: AP

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Pakistani artillery kills 18 civilians in Kashmir attack

Pakistani shelling has killed 18 Indian civilians along the border in Kashmir, in spite of a recent agreement between the countries to cease hostilities. A 50-year-old conflict looks set to continue.

Heavy cross-border shelling from Pakistan killed 18 civilians and injured 30 others in India's northern Kashmir yesterday, defence officials said.

It was one of the worst peacetime civilian tolls in a border skirmish between the two countries.

Shells rained on the Himalayan border town of Kargil starting early yesterday afternoon and continuing after nightfall.

Thousands of residents fled the town, said the Army spokesman, Anil Bhatt. "There is a virtual exodus," he

said. Mr Bhatt confirmed 15 dead, but defence officials in the area cited initial reports which had put the death toll at 18.

It was the third serious incident in the last month, although artillery shelling across the disputed frontier is routine. Pakistan had fired on Kargil in June for nearly two days, forcing many residents to flee to areas out of the range of the shells.

Defence and civilian officials in Jammu, the state capital of Jammu and Kashmir, said shells hit a bus stand and a mosque.

Mr Bhatt said that some of the shells may have hit a hospital.

The firing came less than a week after Indian and Pakistani prime ministers met in New York and promised to bring such incidents under control. But there has been no noticeable tapering off.

On Saturday, Pakistani troops fired several shells at an area where India's defence minister, Mulayam

Singh Yadav, was speaking to soldiers. There were no reported injuries.

Jammu-Kashmir's chief minister, the top elected official, condemned yesterday's attack. "This exposes Pakistan's insincerity in normalising relations with India," said Farooq Abdullah.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars in the last 50 years over the Kashmir region. Their armies are face-to-face along a long stretch of boundary, part international border but mostly a ceasefire line. Indian police and hospital officials say more than 20,000 people have died in insurgency-related violence since a separatist rebellion began in the Kashmir valley in 1990.

New Delhi accuses Islamabad of arming and training guerrilla groups who cross the border to fight against Indian rule, but Pakistan says it offers only diplomatic and moral support.

Milosevic-backed challenge ousts Belgrade's mayor

Zoran Djindjic, a leading Serbian opposition figure, was sacked as mayor of Belgrade yesterday after a challenge by a rival opposition party backed by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's Socialists and the ultra-nationalists.

Sixty-seven members of the 110-seat city parliament voted for Mr Djindjic's dismissal while the remaining 42 deputies, mainly opposition, were absent. Mr Djindjic was removed 10 months after a socialist election defeat to an opposition coalition in Belgrade that triggered Mr Milosevic's worst political crisis. But Serbia's Western-backed opposition movement has fallen apart since it won key municipal elections last November. The ousting of Mr Djindjic was initiated by the Serbian Renewal Movement party of Vuk Draskovic, his former ally who accused him of incompetence and of spending too much money and time on political activities instead of governance. Mr Djindjic denied the charges and said that his dismissal would be illegal.

— Reuters

Paris brings in car ban

The French government said it would impose curbs on the use of private cars for the first time ever after nitrogen dioxide from car exhaust fumes increased pollution in Paris to alert level yesterday. Airparif, which monitors air quality in the French capital, said pollution had reached "level three", the highest level on its scale, in sunny, windless conditions which "created a very stable atmosphere preventing the dispersion of polluting agents". The environment minister Dominique Voynet ordered "alternate" car traffic for today — banning cars whose licence plates end with an even number.

— Reuters

Kabila tells UN to leave

The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Laurent Kabila, yesterday asked for a United Nations team investigating alleged massacres in the former Zaire to leave the country immediately. "We request Kofi Annan [UN Secretary-General] to ask them to leave," Mr Kabila told reporters at Lusaka airport shortly before heading home after a visit to neighbouring Zambia.

— Reuters

Dogs' Sicilian enemy

A member of the regional council in Sicily for the centre-left Popular Party wants to pay 50,000 lire (£18) to everyone who brings in the head of a dead stray cat or dog. "It's obvious that [they] carry serious diseases and infections," *La Repubblica* newspaper quoted Francesco Lo Nero as saying. "And then the economic aspect should not be ignored. Do you realise how much one anti-rabies vaccination costs? 300,000 lire," he added.

— Reuters

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Church repents over wartime silence

The French Catholic Church yesterday apologised, to God and to the Jewish people, for its failure to speak out against the persecution of Jews by the Vichy regime in 1940-44. But why so late and why now?

Standing in a gloomy council estate in the northern Paris suburbs from which 76,000 Jews were deported to Auschwitz, and their deaths, a French bishop yesterday read a moving statement of apology and contrition.

"Faced with the scale of this event and the unprecedented nature of this crime, the silence of so many pastors of the Church was an offence against the Church itself and the mission of the Church. Today, we confess that this silence was an error... We implore God's forgiveness and ask the Jewish people to hear these words of repentance."

Monsignor Olivier de Berranger, Bishop of Saint Denis, was chosen to read the words because it was in Drancy, in his diocese, that the French authorities created the main transit camp for the deportation of Jews to Poland in 1942-44. The statement was agreed by the entire Catholic hierarchy in France, ending a silence which has lasted for 55 years.

The declaration recognised the actions of a handful of courageous French bishops and priests who spoke out and helped Jews to escape. But it also admitted that the overwhelming number of senior French church men supported the high-Catholic Vichy regime and hid themselves in "indifference" and "conformism". The statement went on to place part of the blame for centuries of Christian anti-Semitism on the "teaching of contempt" by the Church itself.

But why apologise now?



Why so long after the war? Why two years after similar admissions of responsibility by the Polish and German Catholic churches and by President Jacques Chirac, on behalf of the French state?

BY JOHN LICHFIELD

Partly, the lead has been given by the Vatican. The Pope has asked the Catholic Church as a whole to wipe the slate clean before the millennium - and the 2,000th anniversary of Christ's birth - by facing up to grave errors in its own past. There were, however, pressing French reasons for the French church

to speak out now. A week today there will begin in Bordeaux the trial of Maurice Papon, a senior official of the Vichy regime in the Bordeaux area who organised and supervised the arrest and deportation of 1,560

decades to face up to what happened. Mr Papon was not an enormously important official under Vichy but, despite his energetic role in the round-up of Jews, he thrived in the French establishment after the war. He was prefect of police in Paris in the late 1950s, head of a semi-state company and, finally, a cabinet minister under President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing before he was denounced by the son of one of his victims in 1981.

His career was possible, because the long silence of the French Catholic church was possible, because Vichy became a closed book after the initial post-war witch-hunting of thousands of very senior and very lowly of

Jews. Mr Papon, 87, is charged with crimes against humanity, the first senior Vichy official to face such charges in court.

The trial, which could last three months, will cause profound soul-searching in France, not just about what happened under Vichy, but about the failure of France over many

fascists. The amnesia was especially complete, until at least the 1970s, on the role of French officials in organising the round-up of Jews, the role of French police in carrying it out, and the role of the French church in giving the persecution implicit spiritual support.

The Papon trial will be an exorcism of the French political and legal community's bad conscience about the period 1944-81, as much as the period 1940-44. The French Catholic Church, after waiting so long, decided, in effect, that it ought to get its repentance in first.

Jewish and Catholic leaders also pointed to the significance of the declaration for present-day politics in France. Anti-Semitism in high-Catholic, *haut-bourgeois* circles did not end with Vichy. Two of the most active strands in the growing support for the far-right, anti-Semitic National Front are Catholic traditionalists and Vichy sentimentalists. The strength of the words in yesterday's statement about the aged role of the Church in promoting anti-Semitism will be especially welcomed by anti-Front campaigners.

The contemporary importance of the statement could be seen, as if in a distorted mirror, by the reaction of the NF leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen. He said the apology was "absolutely scandalous".

France's Jews give mixed response to late admission of guilt

To leaders of the French Jewish community, who have sought a similar statement for years, the church's apology was welcome, even courageous.

Henri Hadjeburg, president of the Council of Jewish Institutions, said that such an admission of responsibility was valuable, even after half a century. "If the seriousness of the error is not admitted, everything becomes possible," he said.

"The same circumstances might arise today and no one would do anything about it."

The response of ordinary people in the old Jewish quarter of Paris was more wary, even cynical. "Apologies are fine," said one passer-by. "But during the war, the Church, like 99 per cent of French people was anti-Semitic, apart from a few exceptions which confirm the rule. If they are apologising now, it's because public opinion has changed. They are going with the flow. You might have hoped they would lead."

Was the bulk of France anti-Semitic during the war? It is true that the vast majority of government officials went along with the laws and proclamations removing the civil rights of Jews. It is true that very few church men, or civilians, protested openly about the round-up and deportation of 76,000 Jews in 1942-44. The arrests, in the first year, were carried out almost exclusively by French police on the orders of French officials. The Vichy authorities managed, at first, to win exemption for Jews of French nationality but even this was lifted later.

None the less, many thousands of French people did risk

their lives to hide Jews and to help them to escape. The 80,000 Jews who died - including those who died of cold and hunger in French-run detention camps in France - represented about one quarter of the pre-war community of French Jews and exiled Jews. This figure is horrific enough.

But the persecution was not carried out as thoroughly in France as in other countries, where it was directly administered by the German occupiers. Partly this was because the Vichy authorities became markedly less efficient in arresting Jews in 1943-44, when Germany started to lose the war. By 1944, the SS was forced to take over because it was disappointed with the flow of Jews to Poland.

For whatever reason - luck, help from their neighbours, administrative foot-dragging - about 175,000 Jews remained in France throughout the war.



Dominique Strauss-Kahn
Leading French Jew

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Hamas chief says revenge attacks are the only defence

EXCLUSIVE

Israel and the US say Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, is at last clamping down on Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation behind most of the suicide bomb attacks. But Dr Abdel Aziz Rantisi, the leader of Hamas in Gaza, reveals that suicide bombs are the Palestinians' only effective weapon against Israel, though for the moment he counsels Hamas members to be patient.

The sound of the kiss echoed around Israel like a gunshot. Last month every Israeli newspaper pictured Dr Abdel Aziz Rantisi, founder of Hamas and one of its principal leaders, being kissed on the cheek by Mr Arafat.

"It was a routine kiss, not a political one," says Dr Rantisi, a 50-year-old paediatrician, his dark beard flecked with white, in an interview with *The Inde-*

pendent

He says the Palestinians and the Arab world are as weak as at any time in their history. Only suicide bombings redress the balance. He says: "Every Palestinian unity conference. Arafat also kissed other delegates."

But Dr Rantisi knows that there is more to it than that. Since he was released from an Israeli jail in January, he has been the effective leader of Hamas in the occupied territories. And the precise distance between Hamas and Mr Arafat is of consuming interest to Israel and the United States because it is Hamas whose suicide bombs, again and again since 1994, have determined relations between Israelis and Palestinians.

Dr Rantisi is quick to disclaim – and this is accepted by Israel and the US – that he has no operational knowledge of suicide bombings. But it is he who ultimately determines if the bombing campaign goes ahead or is called off.

Despite the arrest of some 70 Hamas members in Gaza and the West Bank, and the closure of Hamas clinics and social centres, on the insistence of Israel and the US, Dr Rantisi makes clear that the bombings, which he refers to as "operations", will go on.

His justification for the suicide attacks is simple enough.

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

by Israel in Gaza as justifying the suicide bombs which killed 58 Israelis last year.

In the more immediate future Dr Rantisi, speaking what he calls "Egyptian English", which he learnt as a trainee doctor in Alexandria in the 1960s, sees to hint at a curtailment of attacks. He says: "Any kind of conflict between Palestinians will be disastrous." In reacting to the arrests and closures of Hamas institutions he says: "We will be patient."

Israel claims he has received an amber if not a red light from Mr Arafat against more attacks.

Hamas is certainly under

heavy pressure from the Palestinian Authority. Formed in early 1988, it grew out of the Muslim Brotherhood and its network of supporters in the mosques and Islamic social institutions. Israel has always held that these form "an infrastructure" from which the suicide bombers ultimately come. In the past week Mr Arafat has closed 16 Islamic institutions in Gaza, on which some 50 – 60,000 poorer Gazans relied for relief.

Dr Rantisi is philosophical about this, having spent much of the past nine years in prison as well as one year as a deportee in Lebanon. He says the Palestinians and the Arabs are in a peculiarly weak position, arguing that it was a bad moment for Mr Arafat to negotiate the Oslo accords with Israel. He adds: "One day people will say there used to be a great power called America. Everything changes."

In practice the calculations of Hamas are probably more immediate. Like other Palestinian political groups they are preparing themselves for the day Mr Arafat dies.

They also probably calculate that Mr Netanyahu does not intend to implement the Interim Agreement phase of the Oslo accord, signed by the previous Israeli government in 1995, under which Israel would withdraw from most of the West Bank. Therefore, Israel will never offer Mr Arafat a big enough reward to repeat the mass arrests – in effect imprisonment without trial – of Hamas supporters which he carried out last year.

It is very unlikely that Hamas will abandon suicide bombing. It is a cheap and horribly effective way of using its Islamic commitment to determine relations between Israel and the Palestinians. Nor is its military wing, the Izzedine al-Qassam, likely to lack the means to carry out attacks.

A suicide bomber requires only a willingness to kill himself and a minimum of equipment, training and military support. He does not really require the "infrastructure" which Israel is insisting that Mr Arafat dismantle. And, as Dr Rantisi points out, in the shanty towns of Gaza and the West Bank, there are thousands of bitter young Palestinians who have little enough to live for.

Some 1,200 Hamas members

were arrested by Mr Arafat's men.

It lost control of many

mosques whose imams must

now be licensed by the

Palestinian Authority.

It no longer

has its old influence in Gaza's

Islamic university.

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At the same time Hamas is a less powerful organisation than it used to be in Gaza. This is mainly the result of mass arrests after the suicide bombs which made Benjamin Netanyahu prime minister in 1996.

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هذا من الأصل

Wilde: about the man

He, famously, had nothing to declare except his genius. And, to judge by the new crop of plays and films, neither have we. But exactly which Oscar are we going Wilde about: the flamboyant bisexual or the subversive aesthete?

Stephen Fry as the latest celluloid Oscar Wilde? In one way it's ironic casting: the man who could not be persuaded to flee to the Continent played by the man who could not restrain himself from doing precisely that. Two years' hard labour in Reading Gaol for the one; permanent parole from *Cell Mates* for the other.

The arts seem to be running Wilde this month (or should that be the other way round?). In addition to the Julian Mitchell-scripted movie, which opens on 17 October, there are three Wilde-related premieres. At the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, Thomas Kilroy's *The Secret Fall of Constance Wilde* gives the usually silent, suffering wife an unexpectedly complex voice. At the Arts Theatre in London, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* – a cryptic confession of the author's double life – is currently getting the musical treatment from Australian composer, David Reeves. Most intriguingly of all, Wilde crops up as an alternative approach to loving and living in *The Invention of Love*, Tom Stoppard's new play (opening tonight) about a rather different kind of homosexual, the fastidious classical scholar and poet, AE Housman.

Resolutely the reverse of a glamourpuss, Housman is not gay icon material. It is doubtful that, even under the most expert hypnosis, he could have been induced to walk down Piccadilly with a poppy or a fly in his "medieval" hand. Dubbing Wilde the "Irish Roland Barthes", the critic-playwright Terry Eagleton sees a foreshadowing of contemporary cultural theory in his impish exposure of the arbitrariness of what we take to be natural. Such poststructuralism and deconstruction would have seemed the stinkiest insanity to Housman. Not for him the "Death of the Author", but a lifetime of patiently endeavouring to recover what the Latin authors actually wrote from the intricate inanities of textual corruption.

Despite their dissimilarities and the fact that they never met, the two writers are however linked. For a year, their Oxford careers overlapped. In 1895, the year of Wilde's trial, Housman had a non-coincidental flush of poetic creativity. His *A Shropshire Lad* was published while Wilde was incarcerated and Wilde's friend Robert Ross would, during prison visits, recite to him some of the poems from memory. When he was released, Housman sent him a copy. It looks a case of reciprocal inspiration: Wilde's uncharacteristic *Ballad of Reading Gaol* would have been far less thinkable without the Housman example.

Some men aren't cut out to be tragic figures. That is their tragedy. Some men are. That is theirs.

One key difference between the dandiacal Wilde and the dourish Housman is that the love of Housman's life was not the death of him. Moses Jackson, a decent, totally heterosexual scientist and keen amateur athlete, would have run a three-minute mile from the likes of that manipulative tart, Lord Alfred Douglas, aka "Bosie".

As Stephen Fry's Wilde, rushing back to the arms of Jude Law after a suffocatingly sweet family Christmas, declares in the new film: "Oh, Bosie, you're my catastrophe. My doom. Everyone says so, even me." A fatal weakness which it must have required a certain strength of character to persist to the end, Douglas allowed Wilde to realise his nature. A man of character who politely distanced himself from the adoring Housman and pre-deceased him, Jackson permitted Housman to repress his.

Hence, the opposite directions in which their art looks. Those risky close-to-



home comedies and stories by Wilde are flamboyantly flirty dress rehearsals for disaster. For Housman in a sense, the disaster had already (and less showily) happened. Pessimism, nostalgia, the indecorum of romantic impulse played off against the decorum of classical precedent – these haunting, lead-filled poems truly grasp "the nettle on the graves of lovers / that banded them selves for love".

The Invention of Love is, we hear, a dreamlike memory play – the disordered thoughts of the dying septuagenarian scholar who, at long last, gets to meet his Oscar. So, if the Wilde who visits Stoppard's hero in his dreams turns out to be insouciant, quipping "Aesthetic Self-Realisation" to Housman's "Scrupled Repression", it will illustrate how we all tend to simplify and refashion this endlessly contradictory figure to suit the psychological or ideological needs of the moment.

For, in truth, the nervous strain of being Oscar Wilde must have been, at times, appalling. On the cover of Alan Sniffeld's *The Wilde Century* – a learned look at the cultural construction of ideas of "feminism" and its opposites – the photograph of Oscar is re-apparalled in a "QUEER AS FUCK" sweatshirt and it sits on him about as comfortably as would a Manchester United football strip. Just how liberated was he? Do we have a right to expect him to have been?

There's a scene in the movie where his friend Robert Ross quizzes Wilde about his attraction to young boys: "What would you say if someone wanted to go to bed with your son?" To the reply that Cyril is only

eight, Ross says, "Yes, but what would you say if he were 18?" Wilde ponders. "Nothing. He must do as his nature dictates. As I only wish I had done."

A noble sentiment, though one suspects that the historical Wilde would have been given longer pause by the question, just as you suspect that Ross here cites the current age of consent for gay men in England (and not, say, 15) because of the resurfacing bigotries that identify homosexuality with paedophilia. In *The Secret Fall of Constance Wilde*, Douglas even has to defend himself against the suspicion that he has been interfering with Mrs Wilde's sons.

Works of art about Wilde need to steer a tricky course. On the one hand, it's wrong to patronise the past by plating down its differences from the present. On the other, Wilde's story locks into so many contemporary preoccupations that it inevitably puts the present on trial too, and must be seen to do so. Julian Mitchell, who wrote the screenplay for Brian Gilbert's movie, is right to argue that the sexes led more separate lives in that male, clubland society and also right to show in a very sustained, if clunking manner that his wife and children are as much victims of this tragedy as Wilde himself.

In the past, a Wilde biopic would have permitted itself one scene where the hero was seen giving his children rare (in both senses) "quality time" and then sloping off sharpish to "feast with panthers". It may well have had him regaling them with a bit of *The Selfish Giant*, that parable of the giant excluder who excludes himself from happiness. But fatherhood and its responsibilities



constitute a big, painful topic nowadays, so the staggered reading-out of this very story becomes the linking thread of *Wilde*.

As in *The Secret Fall*, where Oscar, Constance and Bosie are shown to be drawn together because each is the victim of a variously abusive father, there's the sense of Douglas as rival son and lover. Kilroy's

Bosie pettishly, self-servingly – but not perhaps impertinently – declares that the doting Wilde, forever pressing money into his hands, is just as bad as the mad Marquis of Queensbury: neither of them is prepared to look on him as a human being. It must say something about our times that Wilde the bisexual, devoted and neglectful father

The importance of being Oscar: Wilde posing for the camera and as portrayed on screen by Stephen Fry (photo: Liam Daniel)

can find himself as much the focus of our attentions as Wilde the subversive aesthete.

The consideration with which all of these works treat Douglas and his compulsion to use Wilde in a vendetta against Queensbury must have involved a steadfast refusal to be swayed by the even more unedifying spectacle of his later life. As Philip Hoare's recent book *Wilde's Last Stand* richly documents, 23 years after the fatal trial, Wilde was effectively put in the dock all over again during the trial for libel of Pemberton Billing, a deranged Tory MP who claimed that Germany was winning the War by the novel method of blackmailing the 40,000 high-ranking English homosexuals it had on its list. Bosie took to the witness stand and loyally declared his ex-lover the greatest force for evil in the past 350 years.

He ended his days, amazingly enough, in a relationship with the famous and famously difficult family planning expert, Dr Marie Stopes – "an arrangement," as Muriel Spark has dryly put it, "which I imagine would satisfy any woman's craving for birth control". A play that looked back at Wilde and Nineties values from the perspective of this bizarre 1940s *ménage* would be a fascinating addition to this Wildely proliferating sub-genre. Over to you, Alan Bennett?

The Invention of Love opens tonight at the Cottesloe, RNT, London SE1 (0171-928 2252). *Dorian* is at the Arts Theatre, Great Newport St, London WC2 (0171-836 2132)

How a nod and a wink changed a writer's life for ever

Christopher Hampton, the playwright and translator, recalls how film-directing made him an easier person to live with, but gave him a few nightmares as well.

It was terrifying – but directing changed my life. When Mike Newell, with whom I had worked on the script for *Carrington*, backed out of directing the film at the last minute, my name was put forward. Reluctantly I agreed to think about it. By coincidence – or design – Emma Thompson [the film's star] phoned me a couple of days later and made the same suggestion. I was terrified of mess ing it up and not doing justice to the actors or the material.

The honeymoon of Carrington and Ralph Partridge, whom she married under pressure from Lytton Strachey, took place in Venice – in fact

all three of them went on honeymoon together. For logistical reasons, it was decided to start with two days' shooting in Italy. At 5am in the morning, the boat arrived to take me to the set. I felt a curious mixture of terror and exhilaration: something was about to happen that would fundamentally alter my life.

I began my directorial career lying in the bottom of a gondola, shouting at the camera crew and at a real-life gondolier. Lytton's line, as he flirted with this handsome gondolier, was: "I shall spend all my honeymoons here." I wanted the gondolier to wink back at Jonathan Pryce, who was playing Lytton. Unfortunately, my Italian was non-existent and the gondolier didn't speak any English. Finally, I discovered that the Italian for a suggestive wink is *occhiolino*. It was explained that, at the right moment, I would shout the word and our gondolier would wink



bit of paper, which is very lonely. You might imagine that directing is the most active profession you could possibly take up – on the contrary, you are a reactor. Although you have your script, which is your blueprint, there are an enormous number of people discussing it with you. If you are open to all that, it is tremendously enjoyable. One of the benefits of being older was not to be afraid of saying: "I don't know, what do you think?"

All that negotiating with my colleagues made me easier to live with. When I was work-

A new direction: "My principal lesson, that day in Venice... was to hold my nose and jump"

Photograph: Philip Meech

turn home at weekends and my friends and family found me very difficult and remote. When I was directing Carrington, I was equally obsessed but in a different way to when I was on set as just a writer. Directing helped my self-confidence a lot; I'd been rather different in the past. I've always wanted to be liked and people who are indifferent to the feelings of others are not tremendously attractive to me. My instinct was always to let people have their head and to play the good policeman, using the director to enforce what I wanted. My principal lesson, that day in Venice, was the need to overcome my fear – to hold my nose and jump.

Since starting to direct, I have a new type of nightmare: a couple of nights ago, I dreamt that I was set for the first day of shooting and I couldn't remember what the film was about – a new set of anxieties along with the pleasures. Yet it has made me feel good about myself and has been extremely liberating. I'm now even more open to new ideas.

When Carrington came out, I told people I couldn't possibly direct anything but my own scripts. Now I'm finding myself quite tempted. What's more, I could possibly learn something.

You should never stop learning – that's when the arteries harden and atrophy sets in.

I think Carrington saved me from the famous mid-life crisis and invigorated me – because 48 wasn't too late to start something new and 65 won't be either.

Christopher Hampton's version of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* is currently in repertory at the Olivier Royal National Theatre, London SE1 (0171-928 2252)

Interview: Andrew G Marshall

Amidst the flashbulbs, only two true stars ...



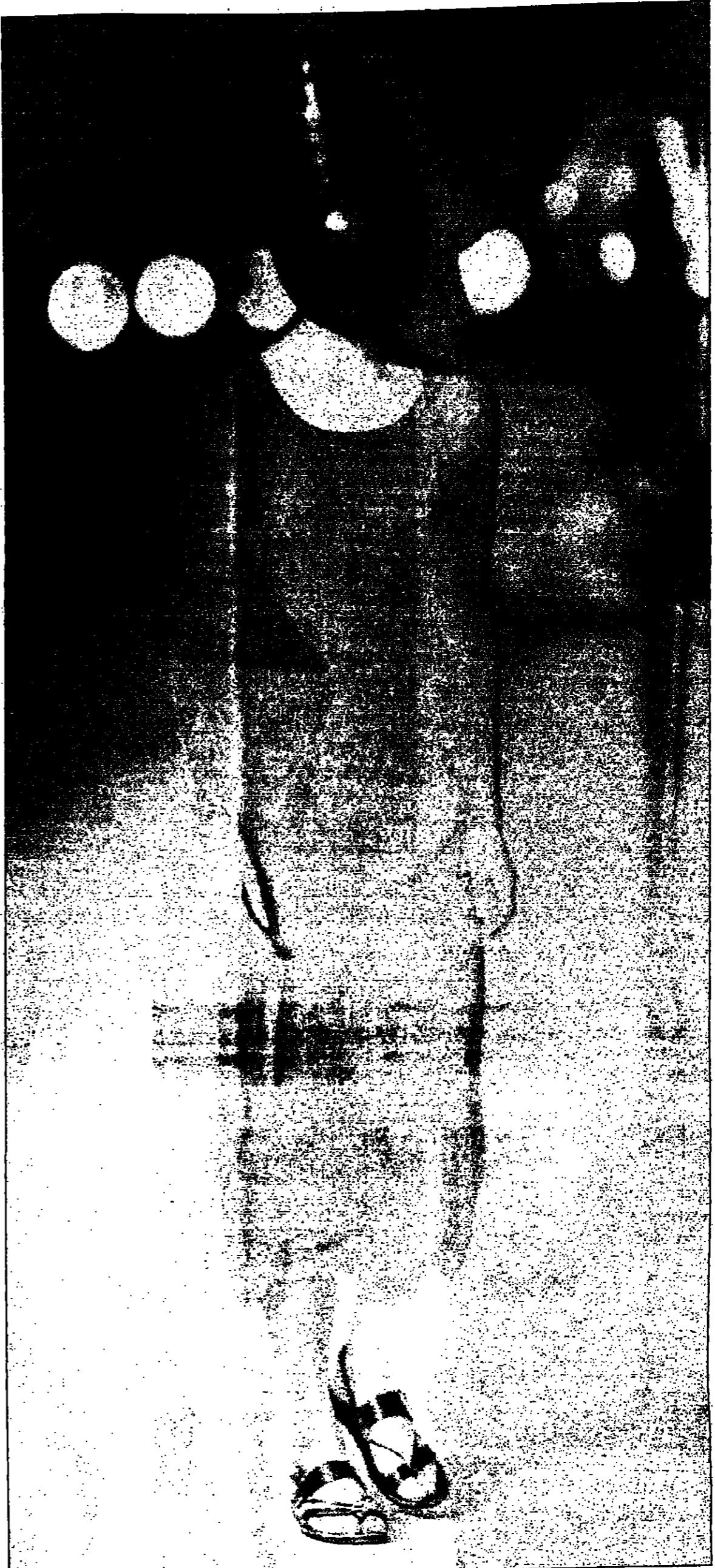
Rude girls: Owen Gaster



Bella Freud



Copperwheel Blundell



Hussein Chalayan's cocoon dress with rosewood helmet: a lesson in pure design at its most esoteric



Eighties trash: Red or Dead



Patrick Cox



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Antonio Berardi and Hussein Chalayan shone out as the main attractions of London Fashion Week. Tamsin Blanchard explains why, and previews what you may or may not be wearing next summer. Photographs: Ben Elwes

It's 10.20 on Monday night at the Brixton Academy. "ANTONIO BERARDI SOLD OUT", reads the neon canopy outside. A rumour spreads around the assembled crowd of press, buyers, family, friends and groupies that Kate Moss has only just arrived from the last show, Bella Freud's, held down the road at The Fridge. "She's probably been sat at McDonald's for the last hour," groans one fashion editor. For once, nobody really minds the one-and-a-half-hour wait. Antonio Berardi has flown in Lord G, his favourite DJ from his New York haunt, Café con Leche, a Latin house club held on Sunday nights. This is the build-up of excitement everybody has been waiting for all week: a fusion of club culture, music, theatre and high fashion that is sure to make the pulse race.

The red plush curtain rises, and out steps Naomi Campbell - her first appearance at Fashion Week - in a sensational lacework dress edged in long, cream lacemaker's bobbins. It was fitted to within a fraction of Naomi's own skin; she was sewn into it and unpicked out of it again backstage.

Then came Kate Moss in a lace print suit, a ruffled flamenco dress with intricate basket-weave shoulder strap, and Stella Tennant in a multicoloured, crystal-sequined Las Vegas trash black satin suit, by Swarovski.

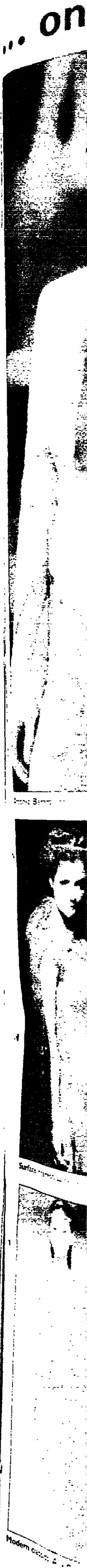
In my dreams, I wanted to buy lots of it. In reality, I know I could never afford it. Clothes this beautifully wrought, with such fine attention to detail - such woven fabrics, hand-embroidered jackets, hand-cut flower corsages blooming from shoulders, and fragile, glass-blown flowers and petals tinkling on wooden-soled shoes - disappear off the clothing budget scale. For Berardi, the 28-year-old star of London's fashion pack, designs clothes that gather together some of the most talented craftspeople he can find, from lacemakers in Sicily, to Mr Pear the master corset-maker, Manolo Blahnik the shoe designer, and Stephen Jones the milliner.

While Berardi's was an exercise in fashion showmanship, craftsmanship, image-making and wishful day-dreaming, the modernist Hussein Chalayan's, shown on Saturday night at an art gallery in London's East End, was a lesson in pure design at its most esoteric. The collection, simply entitled "Between", continued in the same vein as his last, with futuristic cocoons of devoré cotton jersey, graphic Spirograph prints, and a colour palette of white, black, navy and vivid red. Arms were trapped inside the cocoons for the show, but the dresses are designed so that you

can slip them out through the armholes for complete freedom of movement.

Chalayan's collection touched on themes of the Orient, Islam, isolation, definitions of space and light, mummification and convert gids. He has his own unique way of looking at clothes, and his references become completely abstract and at times, surreal. But the wearer need not get bogged down with any of that, and can simply enjoy wearing Chalayan's Zen-like white cotton shirts, a plain, circular-cut linen jacket, a geometric dévoré dress, or a silk dress with a soft fin of fabric falling like water down the front and back, in red so bright that it vibrates. In a quieter and cooler way than Berardi, Chalayan's show was just as much a performance, complete with a live string quartet.

These two totally different collections were the highlights of London Fashion Week - along with Alexander McQueen's strong tailoring; Clements Ribeiro's sequined tulle and cashmere, lace embroidery, sexy backless dresses and functional khaki pants; Sonja Nutall's slouchy suits and perfect dresses; and the débüt show of Matthew Williamson, whose small but exquisite collection of delicate embroideries and divine beadwork in neon colours stand out. For the best of the rest, we'll let the pictures speak for themselves - and you can enjoy the hot spots or low points (depending on your viewpoint) of British Fashion Week from the comfort of your armchair.



17/LONDON FASHION

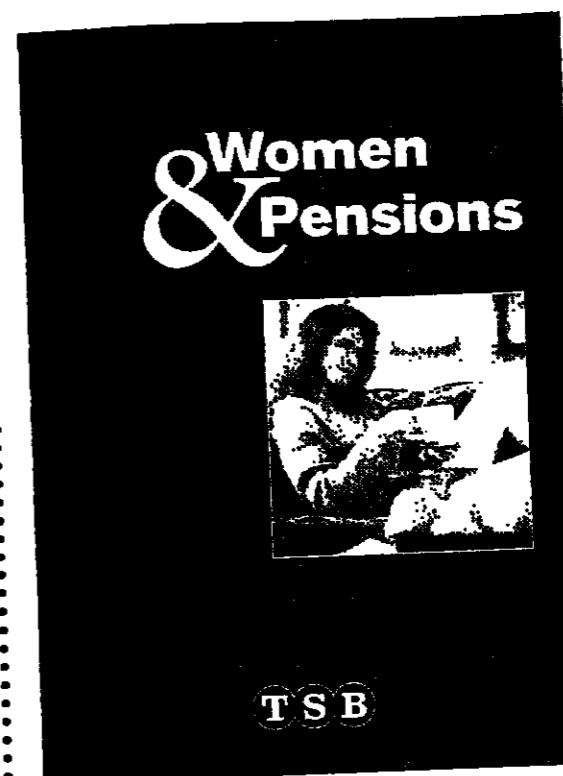
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IN1/10

Roy Lichtenstein

Roy Lichtenstein, artist; born New York 27 October 1923; married 1949 Isabel Wilson (two sons; marriage dissolved), 1968 Dorothy Herzka; died New York 29 September 1997.

The veteran Pop artist Roy Lichtenstein built his very considerable fame and fortune on the unlikely foundations of irony and decoration. He was, *par excellence*, an artist with attitude, trading in an unabashedly chic nihilism.

At the outset of his career he was able to shock a highbrow art scene with brazen, seemingly unmediated and uncritical appropriations of the visual detritus of mass culture. *Look Mickey* (1961) was one of the defining images of the new Pop style: Donald Duck out fishing with his friend exclaims "Look, Mickey, I've hooked a big one" in a frame of Disney cartoon exploded on to a golden age of mass culture at least a decade anterior.

Lichtenstein's appropriations may have started raw, but they soon became refined, if not cooked, at least cured. However indignant one is at their banality, his classic works have an undoubted presence, if not aura.

When Lichtenstein finally moved on from the ready-made images to originate his own compositions he retained as his signature style the Ben Day dot and other accoutrements of the comic strip. With this language, at once super-impersonal and unmistakably his own, he was equipped with all the means necessary for endless cycles of pastiche. Where Cézanne set out to redo Poussin after nature, Lichtenstein could redo Picasso, Leger, Matisse, Monet, haystacks, Chinese scroll painting, Mondrian, even Hergé (*Tintin*) after Ben Day.

His most pertinent parody – his best art-world cartoon – was his depictions of beefy, dripping, slapdash abstract expressionist "brushstrokes", meticulously achieved in black outlines and pure colour over a "canvas" made up of the inevitable dots.

Because he generally worked in primary colours and his adopted technique entailed bright, clean, emphatic shapes, Lichtenstein had fortuitously – or ingeniously – hit upon a style which blended well with the very high modernism he was at work debunking. His scale, colour and texture actually harmonised with all the strictures of pure abstraction, profoundly ill at ease though Pop Art and painterly abstraction were with one another. Lichtenstein himself believed that "the formalist statement in my work will become clearer in time".

But, apart from the transformation that occurs through dislocation of scale, giving new aesthetic meaning to the exigencies of printing technology – the Ben Day dots, the bold, simplified curves – within its new context, Lichtenstein did, as it happens, modify his sources, splicing together various images to form the ready-

work was read by some as an indictment of consumer culture, but as his career proceeded it became clear that his was far more of a celebration of pop culture than a critique. Actually, though, even to talk of celebration is to overinterpret. Lichtenstein always maintained a stiff upper lip of diffident neutrality. Whether he was parodying old masters or appropriating romance and action comic strips he would go gentle on the originals, as keen to exploit the visual effectiveness of his source material as to debunk it.

Roy Lichtenstein was born in New York City in 1923 and took classes with the great Realist painter Reginald Marsh at the Art Students League in 1940. He completed his studies in the Mid-West, however, staying on to teach at Ohio State University after military service in Europe. He once joked that there didn't seem much going on in New York at the time.

He was quite candid about his desire to out an image in an art scene dominated by Abstract Expressionism which left little room for a newcomer to do anything shocking. "It was hard to get a painting that was despicable enough so that no one would hang it... The one thing everyone hated was commercial art; apparently they didn't hate that enough either."

In his use and adaptation of graphic design within a fine-art context, Lichtenstein was supremely skillful; part of his brilliance, in fact, was to make look as if his appropriation was unmediated. Initially he answered the charge that he did not transform his source material by arguing – shrewdly – that no art transforms: "It doesn't. It just plain forms."

But, apart from the transformation that occurs through dislocation of scale, giving new aesthetic meaning to the exigencies of printing technology – the Ben Day dots, the bold, simplified curves – within its new context, Lichtenstein did, as it happens, modify his sources, splicing together various images to form the ready-

ness. (On the other hand, his late works can be seen to be ironic about his own irony!) A "straight" work like *Interior with Built-In Bar*, 1991, exhibited so effectively in a room by itself at the Royal Academy's Pop Art exhibition that year, achieves a classical poise and stasis that belies the insolence

Peter Allen

Peter Dobson Allen, steel manager; born Densbury, West Yorkshire 4 January 1931; CBE 1988; married 1956 Janet Thurman (three sons); died London 25 September 1997.

were not short of people who knew how to run BSC better than its board and its managers, while bemoaning the wisdom of earlier politically driven investment decisions.

By now, Allen was managing director of BSC's strip mills division, and thus in command of three major works where at best only two could survive. It was his cool, methodical and relentless presentation to his board of the case for modernising the plants, for example by introducing continuous casting, which enabled BSC to persuade the Government that the investment was essential if BSC were to compete internationally and eventually transfer to the private sector as a self-standing and profitable business. This was a great service to Wales and the workforce whose interests Allen sought at all times to protect.

Allen's special qualities came fully into play in 1984 when striking miners attempted to close BSC's operations by blockading supplies of raw materials. Closure would have been perilous for steelmaking in South Wales. His openness with the men and his meticulous command of detail were crucial.

The turning-point in Allen's career came in 1975 when he was appointed managing director of the Welsh Division of the British Steel Corporation's strip mills division. At that time the iron-making capacity of the Ebbw Vale and East Moors (Cardiff) works – the "heavy end" – was planned for closure, and Allen was deeply involved in the moves to find alternative employment in those areas.

He had also inherited the promise of investment in the Port Talbot works to the tune of £875m, when the scale of overcapacity in the world market was becoming clearer by the day. Meanwhile, the heavy end at Shotton was running out of time, and the plant's vocal and vivid proponents ensured that decisions were deferred, and resources diverted from Allen's aim of securing the future of the finishing end of the strip plants in Wales. The steering task called for high skills of persuasion and man management and Allen did not fail.

Then came the change of government in 1979, the closure of Shotton's heavy end and the activation of the slimming plan under which employment in the two major plants in Wales was eventually to be reduced to below a quarter of what it had been in the 1960s. Neither Sir Charles Villiers, as the chairman of BSC who gave the lead, nor Peter Allen shirked the task and it was Allen and his senior managers who had to ride out a strike and establish a manageable cost basis for those areas.

Allen was latterly a member of the British Rail board and chairman of the West Wales Training and Enterprise Council. On retirement, he stayed in Wales. He was a private man, but always with fun and a sharp eye for a winning horse. When asked to take on yet another exposed position as chairman of the West Glamorgan District



Career nihilist: Lichtenstein in his New York studio, 1990

Photograph: Schulman-Liaison

Castelli, Lichtenstein settled down to enjoy a career of uninterrupted, seemingly untroubled commercial and institutional success. By the end, he seemed almost to be beyond irony, his reworkings of classical images or his still-lives and interiors were content with their own masterful slickness.

By this stage, this comic-strip style was more famous for being Lichtenstein's than for being Benjamin Day's or the mass media's. In a peculiar twist, the ubiquitous had become particular.

– David Cohen

Peter Springett

Peter John Springett, footballer; born London 8 May 1946; played for Queen's Park Rangers 1963-67, Sheffield Wednesday 1967-75, Barnsley 1975-80; died Sheffield 28 September 1997.

A transfer deal that was surely unique and a telling role in one of the most astonishing upsets seen at Wembley stadium ensure the goalkeeper Peter Springett's niche in English soccer folklore.

The ground-breaking transaction – believed to be the only one in which brothers moved in opposite directions – took place in May 1967 and involved Springett's leaving Queen's Park Rangers for Sheffield Wednesday in exchange for £24,000 and claim a romantic victory.

his more famous sibling Ron, a fellow net-miner who had played 33 times for England. At the time, 21-year-old Peter was regarded as one of the most promising keepers in the land while Ron, 10 years his senior, was approaching career's end.

That spring the younger brother's stock was particularly high as he had just helped the Londoners to lift the Third Division title and, more sensationally, to come back from two goals down to defeat top-flight West Bromwich Albion in the first League Cup Final to be held at Wembley. With the score at 2-0 Springett made two crucial saves, enabling the underdogs, inspired by Rodney Marsh at his extravagant best, to net three times in the last 27 minutes and claim a romantic victory.

After joining the Loftus Road club as an apprentice in 1963, Springett made rapid progress, making his first-team debut that year and earning a regular place during 1965/66. The move to First Division Wednesday gave him a grander stage, but, though he developed into an admirably steady performer and won England under-23 honours, he never managed the quantum leap to full international status. However, as his contemporaries included such outstanding custodians as Gordon Banks, Peter Shilton and Ray Clemence, that can hardly be classed as a failure.

Sadly for Springett, the Owls were on the decline in the late 1960s and were relegated in 1970. Over the three following

seasons he lost his berth to Peter Grunmitt but recovered it in 1973-74, only for Wednesday to plunge into the Third Division a year later. Thereafter he was freed to join Barnsley, whom he helped gain promotion from the Fourth in 1978-79, before retiring in 1980, having played in nearly 600 senior matches.

On leaving the game, Springett joined the police, and for a time acted as liaison officer between the South Yorkshire force and the fans of Sheffield United. For the last four years he battled an illness which had confined him to a wheelchair, though only weeks before his death he had declared his determination to walk again.

– Ivan Ponting



Springett in the QPR dressing room, 1972

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS: Hetty Davies, died 27 September; a daughter, Siobhan, was born on 26 September.

DEATHS: Roy Lichtenstein, died 29 September; a son, Peter, died 25 September.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS: Prince Margaret, Honorary President, the British Museum Development Trust, opens the exhibition "Carter: 1900-1997" and attends a dinner at the British Museum, London WC1.

Changing of the Guard: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guards at Horse Guards, London.

Mischa Sklare, actress, 1928. Deaths: Pierre Cornille, playwright, 1848; Frans Floris (Frans de Vriendt), painter, 1570; John Edwin, organist and composer, 1708; Sir Edwin Landseer, painter, 1873. On this day: Belgium became part of the French Republic, 1795; the *News of the World* was first published, 1843; Austria issued the first postcards, 1869; in the United States, the Watauga trial started, 1795. Today is the Feast Day of Sts Barnabas, St Melarius or Mylor, St Remigius and St Romanus of Liseux.

Lectures: National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Blindness" (i); Rembrandt, *Anna and the Blind Tobit*, 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Simone Mathew, "Le Esculape del Barocco: modelos y marmoles", 2.30pm.

Textile Gallery: Peter Bower, "Drawing and Watercolour Papers from the Oppé Collection", 1pm.

Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire: Dr Ulrich Leben, "Supply and Demand: the market for fine decorative art objects and furniture in 18th-century Paris", 11am.

Foundation for Science and Technology: Lord Butterworth, President, Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London WC1.

Anniversaries: Births: Paul I, Tsar of Russia, 1754; Paul Dukas, composer, 1865; Stanley Holloway, actor and entertainer, 1890; Laurence Harvey (Larissa), actress.

LAW REPORT: 1 OCTOBER 1997

Premature baby's death not murder but manslaughter

Where a woman went into premature labour as a result of a violent attack upon her, and the baby was born alive but subsequently died from the effects of prematurity, the mother's attacker could not be guilty of the baby's murder, but could be guilty of manslaughter.

Attorney General's Reference No 3 of 1994: House of Lords (Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Mustill, Lord Lynn of Hadey, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde) 24 July 1997.

The House of Lords reversed the decision of the Court of Appeal that the foetus was taken to be part of the mother until it had an independent existence, and that a conviction for murder would therefore be justified.

The appellant had stabbed his girlfriend, who was between 22 and 24 weeks pregnant with their child, in the face, back and abdomen. Sev-

enteen days after the stabbing, she went into premature labour. The baby died after 121 days from the effects of prematurity birth.

The appellant was charged with murder after the baby's death.

At his trial the judge ruled that on the evidence neither murder nor manslaughter was proved, and directed the jury to acquit the appellant.

The Attorney General referred the matter to the Court of Appeal under section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1972 on the following point of law:

1.2 Whether the fact that the death of the child is caused solely as a consequence of injury to the mother rather than as a consequence of direct injury to the foetus can negate any liability for murder or manslaughter in the circumstances set out in 1.1.

Simon Hawkesworth QC and Andrew Lees (Sugars & Co) for the appellant; Robert Smith QC and R. Calvert-Smith (Crown Prosecution Service) for the Crown.

Lord Mustill said that he perceived the established rules to be as follows: it was sufficient to raise a *prima facie* case of murder (subject to self-defence or provocation) for it to be proved that the defendant had deliberately inflicted: (i) to a child *in utero* (ii) to a mother carrying a child *in utero* where the child is subsequently born alive, enjoys an existence independent of the mother, thereafter dies and the injuries inflicted while *in utero* either caused or made a substantial contribution to the death.

If the defendant did an act intending to cause a particular kind of harm to B, and unintentionally did that kind of

harm to V, then the intent to harm B might be added to the harm actually done to V in deciding whether the defendant had committed a crime towards V.

Except under statute an embryo or foetus *in utero* could not be the victim of a crime of violence, and in particular, violence to the foetus which caused its death *in utero* was not murder.

The existence of an interval of time between the doing of an act by the defendant and its impact on the victim in a manner which led to death did not in itself prevent the intent, the act and the death from together amounting to murder, so long as there was an unbroken causal connection between the act and the death.

Violence towards a foetus which resulted in harm suffered after the baby had been born alive could give rise to criminal responsibility even if the harm would not have been suffered (apart from statute) if it had been suffered *in utero*.

Those rules were not based on principles sound enough to justify their extension to a case where the defendant acted without an intent to injure either the foetus or the child it would become. That would require a double "transfer" of intent: from the mother to the foetus and then from the foetus to the child as yet unborn.

With regard to manslaughter, all that was needed, once causation was established, was an act creating a risk to anyone.

In a case such as the present, therefore, responsibility for manslaughter would automatically be established, once causation had been shown, simply by proving a violent attack even if the attacker had had no idea that the woman was pregnant.

– Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



Allen's determination

Health Authority, he readily agreed. Later he transferred to the chair of the Morriston Hospital NHS Trust at Swansea. There he was caught between irreconcilable clinical demands and financial realities. Following a vote of no confidence from certain consultants, he resigned in silence and dignity.

Many in Wales will now reflect on the virtues of professionalism when combined with courage and integrity, in the form of Peter Allen, and the way in which he applied them to Wales's great benefit.

– Richard Lloyd Jones

An adventure is beginning, and the bulldog isn't wanted



EDITOR: ANDREW MARR.
DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES.
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE,
CANARY WHARF,
LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000
OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435
OR 0171 345 2435

Time and again we have exhorted Tony Blair to conjure a vision of his kind of Britain. Why? You could say (indeed, some of his advisers would once have said) that it's all rhetoric, mere clouds of words. But words count. They can change our self-image, and, by so doing, can change the way we behave, the way we are. It matters that we change the way Britain sees itself, because a false and retrograde way of understanding ourselves has been inflicted on this country over the past two decades.

Thatcherism brought many achievements, but one of its most destructive legacies is that we were encouraged to view ourselves in a flag-wrapped orgy of repressive nationalism – of war-time housewives mauling do in the bad times, and saving stamps in the good times. That vision was elaborated by John Major into a faintly anaemic picture of warm beer, Sunday lunches and cricket on the green. In more authoritarian tones, Churchillian

motifs and imperial bulldoggeries were misappropriated to foster an out-of-date image of Britain, and we were all expected to subscribe to it. There was even (embarrassing to recall, really) a lot of guff about how we exported democracy – mother of parliaments, and all that. Anyone who believes that the rest of the world thinks they owe democracy to us should try finding an American who believes congressional and federal democracy originated here. As far as they are concerned we are a quaint mixture of aristocratic hauteur and Cotswold charm: democracy don't come into it.

So Mr Blair tried yesterday to articulate for the British people an alternative way of seeing themselves. It was his first sustained effort to do so, using his first party conference opportunity as Prime Minister to address voters directly and urge them to raise their sights, be ambitious about what Britain might be. But the aim

of that ambition was very different from Margaret Thatcher's. Hers was haughty, even disdainful: essentially, it believed that we were a naturally superior race. You can't go around selling Britain abroad by conveying the idea that the rest of the world is beneath you. Instead, you must do what Tony Blair suggested yesterday: perform so well that others inevitably, unavoidably, look to you for their lead. So his idea is to turn to our other tradition – that of the adventurer nation, the risk-taking Britishness, the one that believes in fairness and tolerance, that does not look down on people, but does challenge them. Above all, he wants us to think of ourselves as inventive.

Nations, in this sense, can be compared with individuals. A country, like a person, can, in the psycho-jargon, suffer from low self-esteem. And it can also find ways of feeling good about itself. The point is, they have to be real reasons. It's no good telling

ourselves that we are all kinds of fine and virtuous things when in fact we aren't. If, in Mr Blair's words, we want to be thought of abroad as "creative, compassionate, outward-looking ... tolerant, broad-minded", then we actually have to be those things.

The Prime Minister believes that on 1 May this year British people felt liberated to be those things again – that, in some strange way, they voted for him, and for New Labour, because that vote represented a desire on the British people's part to start their lives over again. But are we such decent upstanding folk?

It would be very easy to be cynical about this pitch, and very unwise. One reason for taking it seriously as a vein of political rhetoric is that Mr Blair clearly embodies those virtues himself, and the people of Britain credit him with that. But, more powerfully, people aspire to it, they actually want to be like their Prime Minister, just

as they are happy for him to present himself as one of them. It is hard to recall a time when the degree of identification between the democratic leader and his electorate has been so intense as it is now.

Mr Blair fully appreciates the staggering opportunity that that relationship offers him. He can invite the British people to think of themselves as being all the good things that he chooses to emphasise – dutiful, family-loving yet yearning for reform. And he can also present those virtues, in his own person, to the world beyond. No modern business with international pretensions would think itself worth a bean unless it could present a confident, positive idea of itself abroad – and one that is consistent with reality. The Prime Minister articulated his ambition for a radically rethought Britain yesterday. It's a brave one, and he evidently means what he says – to try his best; but now he has to make it real.

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LETTERS



Failing our children

Sir: Trevor Phillips is right to place blame on parents for truancy, youth crime, and so on (article, 27 September). But why do parents so often fail their children? And why do the children display the aggressive and bullying behaviour that he recorded?

The fact is that the preceding generation of parents also failed their children, though perhaps in different ways from today. For example, my mother-in-law professes surprise at the way in which we show affection to our children, cuddle them and tell them that they are lovely. In her day, this would have been condemned as spoiling them. Is it any wonder then, that so many of our generation suffer from a damaging lack of self-confidence?

Do parents who lack confidence in themselves therefore have trouble in parenting appropriately themselves? Do they make up for their perceived deficiencies by being autocratic, or overly liberal? It is widely accepted that a crucial element of good parenting is knowing how to set appropriate boundaries – letting children know what is acceptable and what is not, and being able to stick by that in the face of their opposition. It is interesting to view the relief on children's faces when they lose some of these arguments.

Let us move beyond the remedial action towards bad parents that Trevor Phillips suggests, to preventive action – putting effort not just into developing our children's intellectual intelligence but also their emotional intelligence.

LIZ REASON

Charlbury, Oxfordshire

Sir: In response to Diana Appleyard's article "Give in, cop out – a mother's confession" (24 September) I suggest that not only are a growing number of children not receiving the firm guidance and socialisation they have a right to expect but that many adults are opting out of their responsibilities to guide and protect the young.

Some children learn early in their lives that the adults around them either do not care what they do, or are irritated by their behaviour but are very unlikely to take any action. They also learn the value of

tagging and tantrums if the parent gives in to these strategies. Schools are presented with some children who appear lacking the most basic social skills; efforts to control their behaviour are often not supported by their parents or may even arouse hostility.

We have to move away from the notion that putting limits on children's behaviour is "authoritarian" and will make children unhappy; far from it. Young people who have behavioural difficulties often say, when asked about their parents' view of the situation, "My mum and dad don't care."

Along with this mistaken laissez-faire attitude towards children's behaviour goes a more worrying lack of general concern for them. Quite young children will indulge in bad behaviour and vandalism in public places while the adults around them simply ignore what is going on. In fact most

children react quite reasonably if they are approached in a pleasant manner.

We have to learn to love our children more and to be less afraid of them.

SUZANNE TIBURTIUS

Broadcasts, Kent

Press and privacy

Sir: What better way to illustrate the dangers of a privacy code than the publication by *The Independent* of a private meeting by leading Tories at a restaurant. ("A better code, now make it work", 26 September)? Andrew Marr is uncertain as to whether Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, would deem this in the public interest, since the new code considers restaurants private arenas.

Are editors going to let Lord Wakeham become their new editor-in-chief? It used to

be said that a free press included the right of journalists to print their views free from interference, the right of editors to offer diverse viewpoints, and the right of readers to decide what they wanted to read about.

TESSA MAYES

The Freedom and Privacy Project

London WC1

Sir: Once again we read of further massacres of civilians in Algeria (24 September) and your last paragraph says: "Public opinion in Europe is unmoved." Why? Unfortunately, I believe in one simple answer – there have been no photographs of these atrocities. I do not want to glory in the death of others, but only when people are horrified by what they see will they begin to demand action.

BRIDGET A TERRY

Carlton, Nottinghamshire

Sir: So, after a couple of weeks of excoriating the tabloid press for their invasions of privacy, and the week after new guidelines were being discussed on what sort of photographs the press should and should not cover, *The Independent* deems it OK to show on its front page (29 September) a photograph of the Prime Minister and his wife at prayer. If this is not a private moment, then what is?

PAUL MOORE

London SW2

Breast cancer taboo

Sir: The fact that breast cancer is most common in older women is not a reason for suppressing information about the disease ("Doubt cast over value of breast cancer campaigns", 30 September).

In many cases, it is the daughters and granddaughters of these women who, having

witnessed the suffering of someone they love, demand that breast cancer remains high on the public agenda so that resources continue to be made available to fight this devastating disease.

It is a fact that, in this country, breast cancer is the single most common cause of all deaths in women aged 35-54. Until very recently, there was a huge taboo surrounding the disease, with women too embarrassed to speak out about their illness. Surely we do not want to return to those dark days?

DELYTH MORGAN

Chief Executive

Breakthrough

London WC2

Plea for sanity

Sir: In his review of my book *Staying Sane – how to make your mind work for you* (27 September) Michael Church's de-

scription of my approach as a "quack doctor" is a serious allegation.

For the record, besides my medical qualification, I hold seven other degrees and diplomas plus several prizes and awards for my medical research work, and my current appointment is as an NHS consultant psychiatrist in a prestigious London teaching hospital.

In *Staying Sane* I have drawn on over 700 of the latest international research journal papers on topics ranging from the correct vitamin and mineral intake to the role of spirituality in mental health (chapters which Mr Church did not seem to get to).

Dr RAJ PERSAUD

Consultant Psychiatrist

The Maudsley

Croydon Mental Health Service

West Croydon, Surrey

Sir: Damien Hirst's creations would have been quite at home as exhibits – remarkable only for their size – in a sideshow in a 19th-century fairground.

Mrs MARJORIE STEPHEN

Abingdon, Oxfordshire

Family dinner

Sir: With reference to Robbie Jones' letter (29 September), I don't think we are like the Waltons, but my family eat together and watch television together.

Our sixsons are now aged 17, 26, but from tiny children they sat up to the table for family meals. Even now most evenings at least six or seven of us eat together and use the time to share chit-chat about work, college, school, make plans, tell jokes, argue – all the usual family things.

All very valuable and achievable if the will is there!

DIANNE ROWSELL

Pubborough, West Sussex

Pre-Millennium Tension? More ways to stop worrying and start living



MILES
KINGTON

We are continuing today our counselling session for those thousands of you who are suffering from PMT or Pre-Millennium Tension – in other words, those who are getting more and more anxious as the year 2000 approaches.

Who, typically, suffers the most from PMT?

Well, the ones who make the loudest noises of suffering are governments. They know they are expected to do something about the turn of the century. They have no idea what it is. Already the Tories have made a mess of millennium plans and now Labour is doing the same thing, with frenzied talk of domes. The idea of a 100ft high statue of Peter Mandelson in Greenwich is, to my way of thinking, the last straw.

Who has suggested that? Nobody has. All I am saying is that the idea of a 100ft high statue of Peter Mandelson in Greenwich is, to my way of thinking, the last straw.

Al. Right. Fair enough. What are other governments thinking of doing to commemorate the dawn of the next century?

Nothing very interesting. The Swiss government is authorising the issue of a new Swiss Army penknife with an indoor firework attachment. The Pope has issued an edict calling for the slaughter of all the first-born ...

Why has he done that?

Sorry, my mistake. He has issued an edict asking people NOT to slaughter the first-born. The Fins have asked all their citizens to stay sober for a change. The Americans have requested all their allies not to let Cuba enter the 21st century. The Germans plan to leave vast millennium towels overnight on premier beaches in Phuket, New Zealand, Scarborough, the Costa del Sol ...

As a matter of interest, what kind of celebration did we have for it in 1900?

Well, don't forget that 1900 wasn't the

end of a millennium, only of a century.

Right. So what kind of celebrations did we have at the end of a century?

Not much. We had already had huge celebrations in 1897 to mark the sixtieth year of Victoria's reign, and people were pretty bored with parades by 1900. They also thought that if things got very exciting again in 1900, Queen Victoria might have a heart attack and die, and then Prince Edward would take over.

Would that be bad?

Oh, yes. Prince Edward was a multiple adulterer.

Is that bad?

Oh, yes. It is worse than being a single adulterer. Imagine if Queen Alexandra had gone on TV like Diana and accused her husband of infidelity. She would have said: "It is very difficult staying married when there are over 50 people in a marriage ..."

Who is Queen Alexandra?

You seriously don't know?

Yes, I do, as a matter of fact. I am simply making the point that she doesn't matter any longer. Anyway, we seem to have strayed a long way from the millennium ...

Ah! That proves you're getting better!

You're stopping thinking about it already!

You've stopped worrying about how to plan for it!

Come to mention it, how do you think I should plan for it?

Well, if I were you, I would give up all plans of trying to be the first in the next century, as some people plan to do by booking hotel rooms just across the International Date Line.

I'm with you there.

I would give up all ideas of trying to dodge from one century to another by hiring a plane and flying to and fro across the International Date Line.

Nice one!

Anyway, that idea was dreamt up years ago by Alexander Frater in *Punch*, when

he described Christmas on board a South Seas tramp ship which dodged back into Christmas Day from Boxing Day by going back across the International Date Line on Dec 26th ...

Is that true?

Of course. Any other questions? What are YOU going to be doing for the millennium?

Me? I'm going to be hiring a room in a hotel on the OTHER side of the International Date Line, as close to it as possible, and I'm going to try to be the last person in the world who is still living in the old century, while everyone else has gone charging forward into the next one.

Isn't that a bit pointless?

Yes, but the whole thing is bloody pointless! And the fact that you've noticed means you may well be on the way to recovering from PMT! Give me another cheque and come and see me again tomorrow ...

مكالما من الأصل

An impatient leader fast outgrowing his party



DONALD
MACINTYRE
BLAIR'S
SPEECH

So seamless has been Tony Blair's transition from Labour to national leader, that this was hardly a party speech at all. He came to the rostrum yesterday impatient and just a little irritated about what had gone before. This had less to do with the humbling of Peter Mandelson than with what he had detected as a creeping sense of relaxation among the faithful. You could tell on Monday morning, just by watching his face, that he hadn't much liked the elements of triumphalist revelling in the speeches of Robin Cook and John Prescott. Whatever he had thought of their approach, he didn't repeat the reworked commitment to "full employment" in Gordon Brown's speech.

Indeed, Blair made not a vestige of an attempt to wrap up his modernising message in old Labour language. Even the gracious tribute to Michael Foot was merely designed to point out how a decent and long-suffering man had presided over a party which had been reduced to nothing more than a rabble on the brink of self-destruction. Indeed, he scarcely bothered to mention the Tories, other than to warn that they were not "dead but only sleeping", and that complacency remained the party's great enemy. It's as if the election were now a distant memory, celebration of which is a mere distraction from the urgent task of doing to his country what he has already done to the party.

And, in communicating that vision, Blair succeeded handsomely. True, he did not linger on the details of the "tough choices" the party would face in order to realise its ideals. But it isn't hard to see the kind of thing he is pointing to. The decision to impose tuition fees for students is the first, or at least the biggest and boldest, lifting of a popular taboo in order to redirect funds to the most pressing priorities: education, health and the barriers between a prosperous majority and a workless, hopeless underclass. Whether on welfare reform, on the use of private money to strengthen the NHS's ability to provide universal care, or on new ways of organising schools, there will be a lot more taboo-breaking to come.

The vision Blair presented was a Labour one of a compassionate, socially inclusive Britain. The price he exacted was that traditional Labour institutions will no longer be assumed to be the vehicles for achieving it. He also invited, more starkly than ever, his party to take him as he is, confident that it has no other choice.

The Prime Minister knows that when he says bluntly there is no threat to civil liberty as potent as that of the fear of "women afraid to go out, and pensioners afraid to stay at home", the message resonates with all but the least honest of his own MPs. This is pop-

ulist, but not merely in the *Daily Mail*-wooing, Middle England sense; it's on the big working-class council estates in the Labour heartlands that the fear is most palpable. However, Labour's leader also knows that when he stresses that every policy will be monitored for its capacity to strengthen the family, there are many in his party, ministers included, who wince at what they fear is his social authoritarianism. Well, that's what he believes in; the pointlessness to him of baby-boomer Sixties libertarianism may perhaps be one reason why it sometimes seems as if it's the twenty and thirty-somethings, and the over-sixties to whom he has the deepest emotional appeal.

Rightly, Blair decided at the 11th hour to excise a peroration which dwelt on the public mourning for Princess Diana. But the national unity, and desire for modernisation, which he conjured for the future, was similar to that to which he believes attended the Princess's death.

Here and there at Brighton, on the fringes and even on the floor, the old Labour Adam twitches briefly into life. It subscribes to a heresy – that because Labour won so resoundingly, perhaps the party didn't need to modernise so much. Absolutely dismissive of this canard, Blair warned that what the people have given, they can take away. Labour, as he pointed out, has never once won two full terms. It's a message that steels the party against relaxation. But it also reminds the faithful subliminally that he is already the most popular peacetime national leader of the century.

The conference vote to transform itself from next year into something much less capable of embarrassing the Labour leadership was massive and final. And it's true that the vote against Peter Mandelson was in large part personal. Mandelson will remain as closely as ever at Blair's right hand. Indeed the defeat was probably good for Mandelson and perhaps even better for the party since it punctures the myth of Mandelsonian omnipotence under which it had previously laboured. Nevertheless politics played a part too: the left did a little better than even it had expected. Last night the Blairite cadre were still working fiercely to ensure defeats today for the platform on rail privatisation and pensions.

But in a sense these issues scarcely matter. The biggest cheers in the speech were for two radical, liberal goals, dear to Labour's heart but in pursuit of which Labour not only has no monopoly but about which it has been traditionally hesitant: reform of an undemocratic House of Lords and the creation of a truly multi-ethnic Britain. Applause for these policies was, of course, utterly in tune with Blair's unrepentant affirmation that he wants to reunite with British Liberalism. Labour as we know it, he is saying, is a party that came in at the beginning of the century and may go out with it. The radical centre left he wants is as much that of Beveridge, Keynes and Lloyd George as that of Bevin, Bevan and Attlee. Listening to all this, some of his audience in the hall no doubt winced. But his vision is now indelibly linked to his twin aims of modernisation and justice; a centre and left that will not break up as the 1906 coalition did.

And those in the party who don't like Tony Blair's long-term goal must now fear that he is outgrowing his party. Just as he appealed over the heads of the activists to the wider party membership to win the Labour leadership, so he now has the people as well as the party.

The boom will go bust: here's how to brace yourself



HAMISH
MCRAE
THE NEXT
RECESSION

Amid the triumphalism of Brighton, remember that this will be the Government that is in power during the next recession.

It is almost impossible to imagine at the top of a boom that there will be another recession, just as it is very difficult to imagine at the bottom of a slump that there will be another boom. Think back 10 years. We were less than three weeks away from Black Monday, the stock market crash. True, that had little immediate impact on the real economy, for the great housing boom of the summer of 1988 was still to come and there was to be another couple of years before the early 1990s recession hit home. But think of the mood that autumn – a newly-elected, confident government telling us that there had been a step change in the performance of the British economy, soaring consumer confidence, strong house prices, low unemployment – and it is not difficult to see a one with any sense of history (or even a half-decent memory) will feel a certain unease.

The trouble, of course, is that things are never exactly the same. There is such a thing as an economic cycle, but each cycle is different in its shape. The world economy is also hit by shocks, and each shock is different too. So it is impossible confidently to predict that there will be a deep depression during the early years of the next century – any more than that there will be a stock market crash in the next couple of weeks. But one can say with a pretty high degree of certainty that there will be a sharp slowdown in the world economy at some stage in the next four years; and one can say with reasonable certainty, that it will start within the next couple of years. The present good times will roll on for a bit, but they will not roll on for ever.

In what ways might the next cycle be different from the previous ones? For a start I don't think it will be preceded by a surge in inflation, or at least not the sort of surge that preceded the early 1970s, the early 1980s or the early 1990s recessions. It seems pretty clear that the long-term trend in inflation worldwide is down, and that the forces which have been driving it down for the last 15 years will remain in place.

Next, looking at the impact on the UK, the recession will have its most serious effects on different sectors of the economy. In the early 1980s the manufacturing sector was most severely hit, for the slump was associated with very strong

sterling, causing damage to exports. In the 1990s it was the property sector, for that was the most over-borrowed part of the economy when interest rates shot up. Now manufacturing is lean, property wary, and next time the pain may in any case be more evenly spread. Still, I would worry about parts of the economy which seem particularly buoyant at the moment: areas like entertainment and finance. I suspect, too, that the next recession may see a greater squeeze on the public sector, as tax revenues fall and governments are unwilling (maybe unable) to borrow so much to cover the gap.

But I suppose both the greatest uncertainty and the shape of the next recession will be the shock or shocks that trigger it. Recession tends to be accompanied by higher interest rates. In the 1970s and 1980s there were the two shocks which bumped up inflation which then had to be reined back by high rates; in the early 1990s (for Europe at least) the surge in rates was associated with the costs of German reunification.

While shocks, by definition, are unpredictable, you can see some candidates looming. For example, I'm not sure that we have yet seen the full impact of the loss of confidence that has

taken place in East Asia since the summer. That is probably not big enough to affect the property sector, for that was the most over-borrowed part of the economy when interest rates shot up. Now manufacturing is lean, property wary, and next time the pain may in any case be more evenly spread. Still, I would worry about parts of the economy which seem particularly buoyant at the moment: areas like entertainment and finance. I suspect, too, that the next recession may see a greater squeeze on the public sector, as tax revenues fall and governments are unwilling (maybe unable) to borrow so much to cover the gap.

Then, for the world as a whole, there will be the millennium bug, the need to reprogram computers to cope with the year 2000. Rationally, that ought not to be a shock at all, because we know that the year 2000 will happen. It may pass without any dire effects on the world's computers, but it is at least possible that there will be business failures as a result of companies not being paid. Intellectually it is ludicrous that there should be a problem at all, but we simply don't know.

Shocks being shocks, though, the thing that unsettles the world at the end of the century will probably turn out to be something that has never even crossed our minds.

So what should we do? High-falutin' stuff about macroeconomics from journalists is

about as useless as enthusiastic self-congratulation from politicians. What should ordinary people do to prepare themselves for harder times? I suppose the practical message is that people should seek to make their finances and their jobs as bullet-proof as possible while there is still time.

This would be a Puritan message. People should save now, setting aside cash in different forms so that if, say, the stock market does tumble, they will not suffer unduly. They should assume that, come retirement, they may have to rely largely on their own pension, rather than one paid for by the next generation of taxpayers. They should try not to borrow unnecessarily. They should be aware that no job is safe, that within a couple of years the unemployment rate will start rising again, and that accordingly they should build their skills and qualifications now to improve their chances of retaining a job later.

Not a lot of fun? Not quite the spirit of Brighton? Of course Tony Blair warned of hard times ahead but I don't think recession was quite what he had in mind. The really hard bit is remembering that the world at the top of the boom is a very different one from the one at the bottom of the slump.

So why is it all right for men to grow old disgracefully?



SUZANNE
MOORE
WOMEN OF A
CERTAIN AGE

Edwina Currie is the vilest woman in Britain. Marianne Faithfull parading down the catwalk in Lainey Keogh's golden dress is "a dreadful warning to all middle-aged women who delude themselves that looking funky is still an option". Vivienne Westwood is madder than the hats she wears, we were reminded again at the weekend in yet another interview that had her rambling on in her own inimitable style.

What I ask myself, have any of these women done that men don't do every day? Leaving your spouse, growing party, talking nonsense, purely a male prerogative? I wonder? "However badly she behaves, however tasteless and unspeakably horrible her behaviour, there is always a tendency to let her off the hook," wrote Peter Osborne in the *Daily Express* in an article which was clearly not letting her off the hook.

It takes very little, it seems to me, before a woman is accused of behaving badly. Not brushing your hair is seen as a sign of inner moral decay. Old Mick can strut his honeys stuff on the world's stage but the sight of Marianne Faithfull in gold gossamer is apparently too much to take.

The fact that Marianne is a total goddess seems to have escaped the body fascists those who patrol the boundaries of good taste from the perspective of dull old middle England. I expect they don't like Bibby Beane either – who models for Westwood and is in her fifties – because she has breasts and hips, those horrible female protrusions. They also, predictably, find Sophie Dahl too hot to handle and point out that sometimes she looks good but sometimes she looks bloody awful, which, of course, is the reason that she is an icon of liberation.

The reality is that flesh and blood women do behave badly and sometimes look dreadful, and we love them for it. Old Edwina is a game old bird, disarming in her honesty, trashy and flashy in equal quantities. No doubt she can be quite ap-



Westwood, Currie, the Two Fat Ladies and Faithfull

Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

publicly slapped down, punished for being a 50-year-old woman who still can't keep her trap shut about sex.

Years ago women would have had to wait for their husbands to die before getting what used to be called their "second wind". Nowadays, thankfully, there is divorce. Women of a certain age may be freed earlier to do as they please. While some of them will be lonely, some clearly find their independence exhilarating. Certainly it is always inspiring to find women who have grown old disgracefully. How else do you explain the huge success of *Two Fat Ladies*?

Here are two women who have broken every rule in the book and continue to do so. They are overweight, they drink, they are bawdy, their recipes consist almost entirely of saturated fats and alcohol, they are terrible snobs. They are roaring embodiments of what TV producers think will frighten the

horses, the polar opposites of every bland, blonde, clean-living weather girl/newsreader/lovely assistant that we see on our TV screens.

But we love them, these anti-Delias, because not only can we see that they have lived and they remain so full of *jade vive*. We like them basically because they just don't care and not caring is, for women, the most sought-after freedom of all.

I must admit that I was disturbed to see that Clarissa Dickson Wright appears to have washed her hair for this series and is even wearing make-up, but I was happy to see her reveal recently that her size never stopped her getting men.

The paradox is, of course, that the less such women care about what other people think about them, the more we find ourselves caring about them. Perhaps this is because, for many of us, it is only when we see women behaving "badly" that we see ourselves at all.

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Shell axes 3,000 jobs and warns it may quit the forecourts

Shell yesterday revealed a sweeping reorganisation of its European petrol station network, cutting some 3,000 jobs, but promising reductions in petrol prices and further takeovers to build its share of the market. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports, on the latest restructuring of the intensely competitive petrol retailing business.

The Anglo-Dutch oil giant gave itself two years to restructure its network of 13,000 European filling stations. But the company warned yesterday that it could be forced to leave some markets altogether, including Britain, if its chains failed to perform.

The programme means the loss of around 15 per cent of the 19,000 strong workforce in the refining and marketing businesses, of which about 2,500 are based in the UK. Many of the jobs would be those of managers as Shell "delayered" its organisation.

Shell insisted the British job cuts were difficult to quantify, because only 850 of its 1,700 UK sites were owned by the company. Most forecourt staff, even in company-owned stations, are employed directly by the manager.

The company admitted openly for the first time yesterday that its UK chain of petrol stations was unprofitable. Garages that failed to break even after two years would be closed and sold.

though the sites would not be offered to competitors.

"We are making losses... You should be constantly asking yourself whether we should be in a market," said Phil Turberville, head of European Oil Products. The plan would slash Shell's retailing cost base in Britain by 43 per cent. Its UK operations are more expensive to run than those on the Continent, with 4.4p of each litre of petrol going on overheads, compared with 4.1p on the continent. The target is to reduce this to 2.5p a litre.

Though some stations would close, the programme aimed to increase Shell's share in all its European markets to 20 per cent, with the company taking the first or second place in each country.

The recent deal to buy 450 Gulf filling stations, which has yet to be formally signed, raised Shell's UK market share from just under 15 per cent to almost 17 per cent. But it remains in third place behind the market leader, Esso, with 18 per cent and BP-Mobil, which merged their petrol chains last year, with just over 17 per cent.

"We urgently need to get the organisation fit for the purpose. Every single piece of real estate has to perform," said Mr Turberville. The plan is doubly ambitious, because Shell's position is weakest in its biggest markets, such as France and Italy.

To achieve this growth, Shell resisted the prospect of another petrol price war as the company pledged to cut its fuel prices to a figure closer to those of its main competitors. Mr Turberville explained: "Price is one dimension. Where that involves cutting then of course they'll be cut."

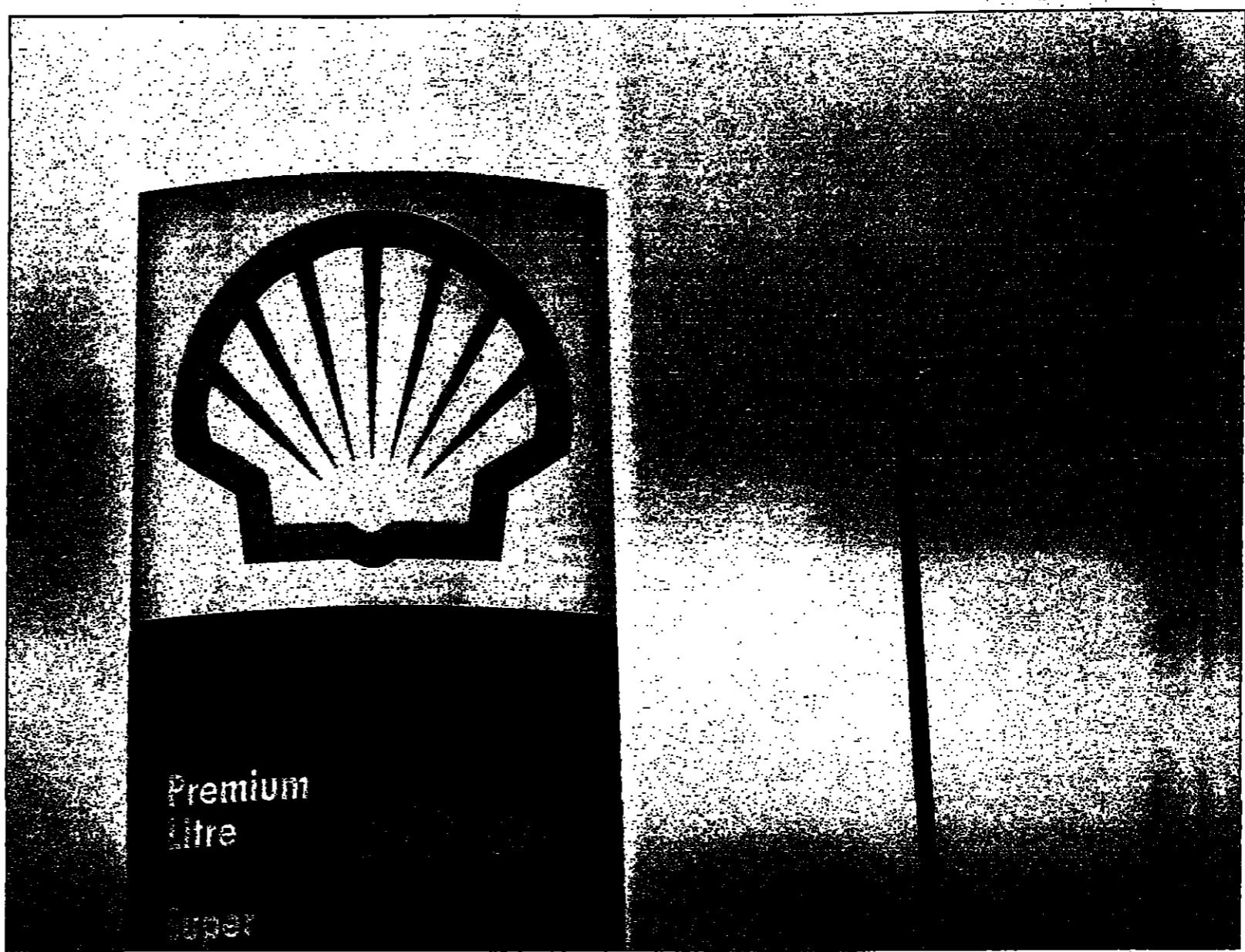
Further UK takeovers or mergers, to be unveiled "in months rather than years," were the other main plank of the strategy. "It could be through mergers, it could be swaps and it could be acquisitions. Nothing has been ruled out," said Mr Turberville.

Speculation mounted that another middle-ranking player would be bought up. Gulf, owned by Chevron of the US, succumbed to Shell after the collapse of three-way merger talks with Elf of France and Murco, which trades in the UK under the Murphy brand.

Elst last night ruled itself out of a deal with Shell, insisting it had made a long term commitment to the UK. "We looked at the possibility of a sale or merger, but it just wasn't on the cards. Since then we've taken a conscious decision to build on our UK position," said a spokesman.

Oil analysts welcomed the announcement yesterday as a further step in Shell's global drive to boost its profitability. In the space of a month it has spent £1.2bn taking control of a chemicals joint venture and announced the £1.5bn acquisition of a Texas gas pipeline.

Outlook, page 23



Shell's familiar symbol may disappear from the landscape unless it can capture 20 per cent of the market within two years

How the personal touch replaces 'automated hell'

There could be no better sign of the transformation quietly gripping Shell's bureaucracy than the sight of Phil Turberville, head of the European refining and marketing division, donning a set of overalls and filling a customer's petrol tank.

In recent months Mr Turberville, a 45-year-old Aberdeen-born accountant, has taken to the road in a battle bus touring filling stations from

Sweden to Spain. "Did you know that in Norway we serve 80 million hamburgers a year in our shops?" he asked. We confessed we did not.

His school of management is light years away from the old Shell doctrine. "Our business performance has not been acceptable. We've fallen into the trap of taking the customer for granted," he admitted, grasping a leaflet from the toe of the

companies he most admires, the rapidly growing Pret a Manger sandwich chain.

Mr Turberville fought against

Shell's agonisingly slow decision-making machine. "You'd wait weeks to have something agreed by someone who hadn't seen a customer in months," he explained.

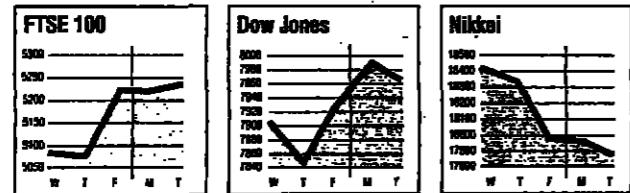
But the strategy is risky, depending on the improved service standards pulling in more customers. Sales at one west London filling station are up 15 per cent in trials of the

changes, but Shell admits some sites are far less profitable than others.

At least yesterday Mr Turberville had God on his side. As he walked on to the petrol station forecourt an elderly nun approached him, congratulating him, was washing her Mini. "What did I say? It's working," he beamed.

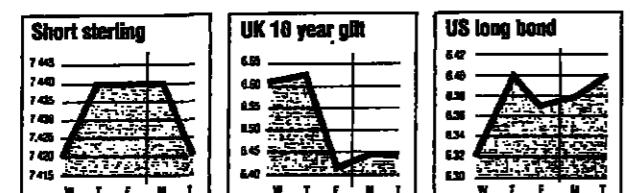
- Chris Godsmark

STOCK MARKETS



Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5244.20	23.90	0.46	5226.30	3800.40	3.35
FTSE 250	4829.70	13.80	0.29	4816.10	4348.10	3.35
FTSE 350	2516.30	10.70	0.43	2507.20	1949.20	3.35
FTSE All Share	2455.02	10.42	0.43	2445.66	1825.79	3.35
FTSE SmallCap	2335.0	10.30	0.44	2374.20	2128.40	3.37
FTSE Pfdng	1287.4	4.50	0.35	1285.50	1195.00	3.37
FTSE AIM	1003.8	-15.60	-1.53	1002.00	1002.00	3.70
Dow Jones	7986.76	-6.63	-0.08	8259.31	5682.17	1.67
Nikkei	17887.71	-99.50	-0.55	21612.30	17303.65	0.88
Hang Seng	15049.30	184.93	1.24	16673.27	11902.43	2.73
Dax	4167.85	63.58	1.55	4438.93	2651.85	1.91

INTEREST RATES

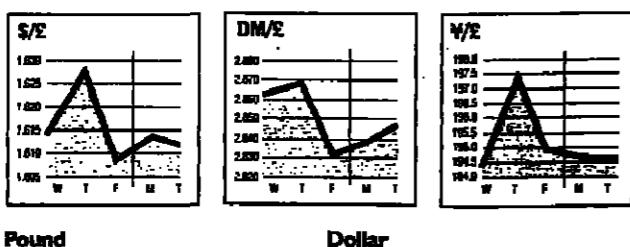


Money Market Rates	3 month	1 year	1 year	1 year	10 year	10 year	Long bond	1 year
UK	7.31	1.36	7.57	1.32	8.45	-1.22	8.54	-1.45
US	5.77	0.14	5.60	0.01	6.10	-0.80	6.30	-0.70
Japan	0.56	0.05	0.63	-0.08	2.12	-0.79	2.77	-0.67
Germany	3.40	0.29	3.76	0.49	5.52	-0.58	6.16	-0.75

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg	Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg
Bicompatibles	627.50	43.50	7.45	Powell Duffryn	437.50	-20.00	-4.37
Loctite	883.50	43.50	5.18	Lucksbury	234.00	-9.00	-3.70
CRT Grp	283.50	12.50	4.61	Greensells Grp	379.00	-12.50	-3.19
Yule Cato	341.50	14.00	4.27	Bank Scotland	512.00	-16.50	-3.12

CURRENCIES



Period	1 Jan	Chg (p)	% Chg	7 Apr	Chg (p)	% Chg	
Dollar	1,514.6	-0.096	0.15653	Sterling	0.6194	-0.049	0.6369
DM/Euro	2,844.9	+0.190	2.3855	D-Mark	1,762.1	+0.269	1.5241
Yen	194.43	-1.04	174.35	Yen	120.43	-0.58	111.39
£ Index	100.20	+0.50	87.00	\$ Index	105.10	-0.20	97.50

OTHER INDICATORS

1 Jan	Chg	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Chg	Yr Ago	Mar 97
Brent Crb (\$)	19.91	0.09	22.67	GDP	112.80	3.50	108.0	24-Oct
Gold (\$)	333.45	5.20	378.40	RPI	158.50	3.5	153.14	07-Oct
Silver (\$)	5.17	0.30	4.88	Base Rates	7.00	5.75		

More than 70 per cent was wiped from the value of the biotechnology company Stanford Rook yesterday after its main product failed clinical trials for the treatment of tuberculosis. Michael Harrison reports on the latest shooting star to fall to earth in one of the stock market's most hyped sectors.

the drug, which works by triggering the immune system, was no more effective in treating tuberculosis than existing therapies. The results are a serious setback for the company and mean that SRL172 will not come to market until 2002 at the earliest. Stanford Rook had expected the drug to start earning revenues as early as next year as a treatment for tuberculosis, which causes three million deaths a year. Analysts had expected this form of treatment to generate as much as £300m in sales.

He said the company was now pressing ahead with the development of SRL172 as a treatment for melanoma or skin cancer, hay fever, asthma and aids. The cancer treatment market is estimated to be worth up to £1bn.

Phase three trials - the final set of clinical tests before a drug goes on the market - of SRL172 as a cancer treatment are due to begin the first half of next year and will take two

years to complete. Second-phase trials for its use as a treatment for hay fever and asthma are in preparation in Oxford and Southampton.

However, none of these treatments will be ready to go on to the market until the next century, always supposing they get through clinical trials.

The principal outside shareholder is Baup Von Ernst, a private Swiss bank owned by the German retail bank Bayerische Vereinsbank, which owns a 24.9 per cent stake. Yesterday it saw the value of its holding plummet from £26m to £7m. A spokesman said the shares were held on behalf of private clients but could not comment further.

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Boosey & Hawkes fails to lift gloom

Shares in Boosey & Hawkes plunged a further 37.5p yesterday, despite a strong set of first-half figures. Leo Paterson reports the company's share price has been dogged by growing City concerns over its long-term future.

Boosey & Hawkes yesterday said that rising costs associated with takeover talks at its main shareholder Carl Fischer had cost the group £570,000 in the last six months.

Boosey & Hawkes' share price under Richard Holland, chief executive, has fluctuated wildly amid growing speculation about its future.

US based Carl Fischer, which owns a 43 per cent share in Boosey & Hawkes, decided to put up its stake for sale earlier this year. Under UK takeover rules, whoever buys Fischer's stake must put in an offer for the whole of Boosey's. But it was revealed last week that the offer Fischer had

been receiving for Boosey were "materially below" the current share price.

All the big names in the music industry are thought to have been eyeing up Boosey including Polygram, EMI and Sony. They are likely to be interested in Boosey's music publishing business, but analysts are expressing doubts about the future of its instrument manufacturing business.

Though Boosey may be able to exploit synergies from their publishing and instrument manufacturing divisions, it is not at all clear whether a out and out music publisher such as EMI would be able to do so.

Boosey announced first-half operating profits of £3.4m yesterday, up from £2.8m in the same period last year. Sales were also up by 4 per cent, despite being held back by a £3.8m currency hit. Yet profits before tax fell by 14 per cent, after costs relating to sterling's strength and the possible sale of Carl Fischer's 43 per cent stake in the company.

Without these costs, pre tax profits would have risen by 13 per cent. Shares closed at 787.5p, 37.5p down on yesterday, and 26 per cent lower than August's peak.

Richard Holland, chief executive of Boosey & Hawkes (above), has witnessed a fluctuating share price amid speculation about its future



IN BRIEF

Hillsdown sells meat and produce businesses

Food manufacturer Hillsdown has sold most of its remaining meat and produce businesses to CimVen for £53.6m. Hillsdown said it is also in talks to sell six Formwood suspended ceilings maker and its meat trading group Towers Thompson. The businesses will be run by former Hillsdown executives David Gray and Andy Hunter, together with the incumbent management team. Hillsdown said it would take a £30m charge against 1997 profits because of the sale, but would use the proceeds to cut debts.

Psychometric group floats

SHL Group, the UK's leading provider of psychometric services used to select potential employees, is floating on the Stock Exchange through a placing of 21.5m shares at 245p to raise £52.7m of which £7.5m net is new money for the company. Directors, their families and employees will retain 51 per cent of the company, which will be valued at £130.6m. Profits of £9m and pro forma earnings per share of 13.1p are forecast for the year to September, before deducting an exceptional charge of £1.3m to provide for the cost of issuing shares to employees.

WBB profit unchanged

Warr Blake Buarne made an unchanged profit of £5.5m in the six months to the end of June on a slightly reduced turnover of £50.3m. Sterling had an adverse impact of around 10 per cent on sales and profits. WBB Devon Clays remains the main source of profits.

Delphi to raise \$58m in US

Delphi, the listed staff training group is placing 5 million new shares, with the option of a further 750,000 shares, in the form of American Depository Shares in the US to secure a listing on Nasdaq, the US junior market. The issue could raise around \$55m and will provide resources for further acquisitions in the US.

Vegetable oil troubles

Shares in Acatos & Hutchison, which bottles and cans vegetable oils, fell 36.5p to 260p after issuing a profits warning. It blamed the strength of sterling, extra costs in redeveloping its London factory and delays in commissioning its new bakery fats plant.

Turnaround for Ruberoid

Ruberoid, maker and installer of waterproof coatings converted a loss of £160,000 in the first half of 1996 to a profit of £1.34m on an almost unchanged turnover of £86.7m in the first half of 1997. The strength of sterling reduced sales and profits by about 10 per cent.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



If you worked for a company called Genus and somebody at a party asked you what your business consisted of, you would be able to say: "The supply of dairy and beef semen and a range of complementary products, the provision of artificial insemination, farm consultancy and other services to dairy and beef farmers."

It must be worth almost as much as the salary. Genus, spun out of the old Milk Marketing Board seven years ago, has received an "indicative offer" from Breding Services, a bid consortium comprising Alchemia Partners and a management team.

So far Genus's board has given the offer the cold shoulder. Breding Services still hopes to be able to put the benefits of the bid to Genus's 29,000 farmer-shareholders.

The bidder's management team includes Dr Tony Callow, managing director of Agri-Livestock Consultants and a former director of Premier Breeders, and Alex Park, managing director of Cheshire Breeding Services. I'm sure any talks will be fruitful.

Around 20 employees of MeesPierson's equity desk in London are looking for new

jobs after being told last Thursday that the operation will close at the end of October.

The good news is that MeesPierson, Holland's oldest merchant bank, is about to clinch the sale of another London subsidiary, stockbroker Shaw & Co, to Charles Stanley, thus saving 80 jobs. But the bank is having less luck finding a joint venture partner for its 100-strong City derivatives business MPD.

At the moment MeesPierson employs around 500 people in London. It has embarked on a "strategic focus" programme following its sale to Belgian insurer Fortis by the previous owners, Dutch bank ABN Amro, six months ago.

About 20 people work for the equity operation, which used to be called London Equities, and was originally formed by ex-employees of Kiteal and Aitken. A MeesPierson spokesman in Amsterdam says it has looked hard to find a joint venture partner or buyer for the business, but "we might have to close it." The boys were told last Thursday to get their cv's out.

On the search for a partner for the derivatives operation, the spokesman says:

"We haven't found any partners yet. Hopefully we will be successful."

The Dutch certainly like doing things by the book. One former employee says that the boys at MeesPierson are not allowed to use mobile telephones inside the office. Why ever not?

How intriguing. Hays Plc subsidiary Hays Business Services has just lost its managing director and finance director, but is refusing to comment on the matter. Managing director Peter Dobson and his finance deputy left the operation in Stockwell, south London, a couple of weeks ago. When I rang the company's head office in Guilford, Surrey, yesterday they said they had no comment to make, but would get back to me. Watch this space.

As I forecast last week, Richard Nichols has been elected as the next Lord Mayor of London. On 7 November he will succeed Sir Roger Cawkwell to become the Corporation's 670th Lord Mayor.

I also wrote that Mr Nichols was originally elected as an Alderman to the

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Hepworth seeks to stop the rot

Shareholders in Hepworth, the boilers, pipes and building materials group, were bracing themselves for poor half-time figures yesterday. But the slump in profits from £35.5m to £11.1m was much worse than expected and the shares shed another 3.5p to 208p.

New chairman Jeremy Lancaster and Jean-François Chene, who returns today as chief executive, are determined to stop the rot and have launched a full strategic review.

The dividend has been slashed, the interim payment is down from 5.5p to 3p and the final will be cut from 9p to 5p. Restructuring could start before the year-end but the full outline of the plan will take six months.

There is certainly much to be done. A closure of the factory in Brussels accounted for £5.9m of the profits fall and the group made a disappointing £13m loss on disposals.

The underlying trading performance was also poor. Turnover in the continuing businesses was down 4 per cent to £305m, and profits were down by a third to £21.6m.

Translating profits from UK exports and overseas activities, which together account for 50 per cent of sales, cost the group £5.2m. Redundancy costs and pension charges together cost £1m more than last year.

Currency costs could aggregate to £10m by the year end and pension

look too exciting but a better measure — core income, which excludes lumpy capital gains and provisions — grew a much more impressive 32 per cent.

That sort of growth looks set fair to continue following yesterday's deal with Bank of Scotland and Northwestern Mutual Life, which will increase ICG's ability to underwrite larger amounts of mezzanine finance than its own balance sheet and existing backers like Hermes and Guardian can handle.

The biggest danger facing ICG is that the banks and venture capitalists decide that, with more cash than they know what to do with, they can find bigger slices of deals themselves and reduce or even remove the need for the mezzanine financiers. As the business cycle hots up, banks tend to lend greater and greater slices of the total value of a deal.

According to ICG, there is still plenty of business around and the quality of its staff, compared to the relative jobsworths at the banks, means lenders find it quite comforting to have the company give a deal its seal of approval.

With no real quoted rivals, valuing ICG is difficult but because it pays out most of its core income as dividend it has tended to be valued as a yield stock, albeit with substantial growth potential.

The interim dividend of 5.4p represented 12.5 per cent growth over last year's first half 4.8p, putting ICG on track for the consensus forecast dividend of 17p or 18p for the full year. With the shares adding 11p to 367.5p, that implies a prospective gross yield of 6.0 per cent.

Good value.

Hepworth: At a glance

	1995	1996	1997	1997
Trading result (£m)	5.5	11.1	3.5	3.5
Turnover (£m)	686	766	778	396.1
Pre-tax profit (£m)	7.5	17.5	5.7	5.4
Earnings per share (p)	21.0	20.0	18.5	13.0
Dividends per share (p)	14.5	14.5	14.9	5.5
Turnover by division				
1st half 1997, %				
Building products	24.4	24.4	24.4	13.2
Minerals and chemicals				550
Refractories sold April 1997				500
Home products	20.4	20.4	20.4	31.0
Saunder Dural				300
Share price				200
Source: Datastream				

charges could double to 25m in the second half, rising to a maximum of £11.5m in 1998 when contributions resume.

Analysts have downgraded forecasts for the full year to around £52m, equal to earnings of just under 14p a share, and £60m and 16p of earnings in 1998, which puts the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 12.8.

The shares have suffered a long decline from a peak of 500p in February 1994 but shareholders will have to wait for the board's review before they can hope to see a recovery. High enough for now.

IGC looks good in mezzanine niche

Intermediate Capital Group provides so-called mezzanine finance for management buyouts — the bit of funding that comes between relatively cheap bank debt and expensive venture capital equity funding.

If things go wrong, ICG ranks before shareholders and trade creditors but after the bank for repayment. It is rewarded for that level of risk with a higher coupon on the debt and often an equity kicker as well in the event of a flotation or takeover. This is a growing niche and ICG is the leading independent offering it.

Half year figures to July came in better than expected, especially the size of the loan book, which increased from £250m to £310m. Pre-tax profits edged up 4 per cent to £11.5m. That doesn't

charge could double to 25m in the second half, rising to a maximum of £11.5m in 1998 when contributions resume.

Analysts have downgraded forecasts for the full year to around £52m, equal to earnings of just under 14p a share, and £60m and 16p of earnings in 1998, which puts the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 12.8.

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Candlewick ward of the City (Cannon Street) in 1984 with just seven votes, beat Lord Levene, the former Canary Wharf boss, who got six.

It may be the last election under the present system before the Corporation introduces wide-ranging reforms to increase the number of voters. The ancient body

needs to head off threats from the Labour

Government to merge it with a neighbourborough.

The head of the Royal Academy of Music

has been appointed to City law firm

Beachcroft Stanley as chief executive.

Sadly this does not mean Brahms for

barristers and cellos in the chambers.

Patrick Maddams is a professional manager who became the Academy's first

managing director in 1991. Before that he was managing director of the distinctly un-

musical BTR subsidiary Dunlop Textiles.

Mr Maddams, 46, succeeds James

Kennedy, who also came from outside the legal profession and is retiring after 10

years in the post.

Despite his years in management Mr

Maddams still has some ideals. He says: "Traditionally, law firms have always been very secretive of how their businesses are run. I want our clients to see us as an open and innovative practice ... An open law firm? That'll be the day."

Insurance companies love trying to scare people into taking out cover for everything from motor accidents to impregnation by aliens. Zurich Municipal has come up with a novel approach. It is warning of "troubling waters for Boozie Cruisers."

"Thousands of people taking advantage of cheaper low season ferry tickets to stock up in French supermarkets could be prime targets for thieves," it drolly. "Yet many day trippers are crossing the channel unaware that if their bulk shop is stolen from their car, their motor insurer is unlikely to provide sufficient compensation."

It says a car full of British shoppers will spend over £400 on booze and food, while most policies only provide cover of up to £100. Personally, if I discovered that amount of booze had been nicked, I would have only one response: Head for the nearest bar.

The brawling bogeyman who threatens Lewis

Andrzej Golota, who challenges Lennox Lewis for the World Boxing Council heavyweight title this weekend, has used controversy as a springboard to the spotlight. But Gav Leech, in Atlantic City, believes he is that genuine rarity: a talented white heavyweight.

Traditionally, a shot at the world heavyweight title comes as a reward for a series of impressive wins. Not so for Andrzej Golota, the Chicago-based Pole who challenges Lennox Lewis for the World Boxing Council title here on Saturday. But Golota is nothing if not different.

The 29-year-old Warsaw native has risen to prominence on the back of consecutive disqualifications in his last two fights, both against the former undisputed champion, Riddick Bowe. In July 1996, persistent low punching resulted in Golota being thrown out in the seventh round. Last December, the same offence saw him disqualified in the ninth.

But in both bouts, Golota was a revelation: that rarity in heavyweight boxing, a white boxer who can actually fight. Even after points had been deducted for his infringements, Golota led by convincing margins.

Before the first fight, many rated Bowe the best heavyweight in the world. Golota was undefeated in 28 fights, with 25 knock-outs, but remained a 12-1 underdog none the less.

Yet Bowe was battered from pillar to post, mostly by legitimate means. In the rematch, Golota impressed even more, flooring and almost stopping Bowe. And Golota proved his durability in two of the most brutal fights in recent heavyweight history, recovering from a knock-down in the rematch. Not only could this white guy fight, he had a solid chin.

Perhaps Golota's effectiveness was not that surprising. He was a successful amateur heavyweight in Poland before moving to Chicago in 1991. He won seven Polish national titles, took the silver medal at the 1985 world junior championships, and won gold and bronze respectively in the 1986 and 1988 European championships before winning Olympic bronze in 1988.

Infamy in America is a relatively new development in Golota's life, but not so in his homeland. Run-ins with the Polish authorities had already given him a reputation for bad behaviour before he was accused of stripping and robbing a man at gunpoint following a night-club altercation. With a trial date set, Golota and his wife, Maria (Polish-born but a US citizen), left for Chicago in 1991. Only this year, secure in his status as a national hero following the taking, Golota's behaviour was inexplicable. Bowe's rare moments of success brought swift, brutal retaliation: powerful, deliberate blows below the belt.

Whether Golota is capable of keeping his punches legal is open to question. Noticeably, his final punch of an open sparring session here yesterday, a left hook, struck desperately low.

"I'm more experienced now," he claimed. But asked whether he could guarantee a clean fight against Lewis, he said: "Don't put money on it."

Arguably, though, contro-

versy has raised Golota's public profile more than beating Bowe ever could have done. A riot broke out at Madison Square Garden, New York, after the first Bowe fight, with 16 people taken to hospital and 22 arrested. Winning a boxing match impresses the sports fans, but causing a riot gets the attention of the entire nation.

With his broken English, Ivan Drago hairstyle and a mean streak as wide as the Volga, Golota is the perfect boxing bogeyman for a country that is still paranoid about the eastern bloc. It came as no surprise that Golota was screen-tested for the role of the Russian hiltman, Slashevich, in the remake of *Day of the Jackal* starring Richard Gere and Bruce Willis.

With his homeland having suffered major flood damage recently, Golota is keen to give national morale a boost by beating Lewis. "I am now a role model for my countrymen and have a responsibility towards them," he said yesterday. "Maybe my winning the world title will help things a little."

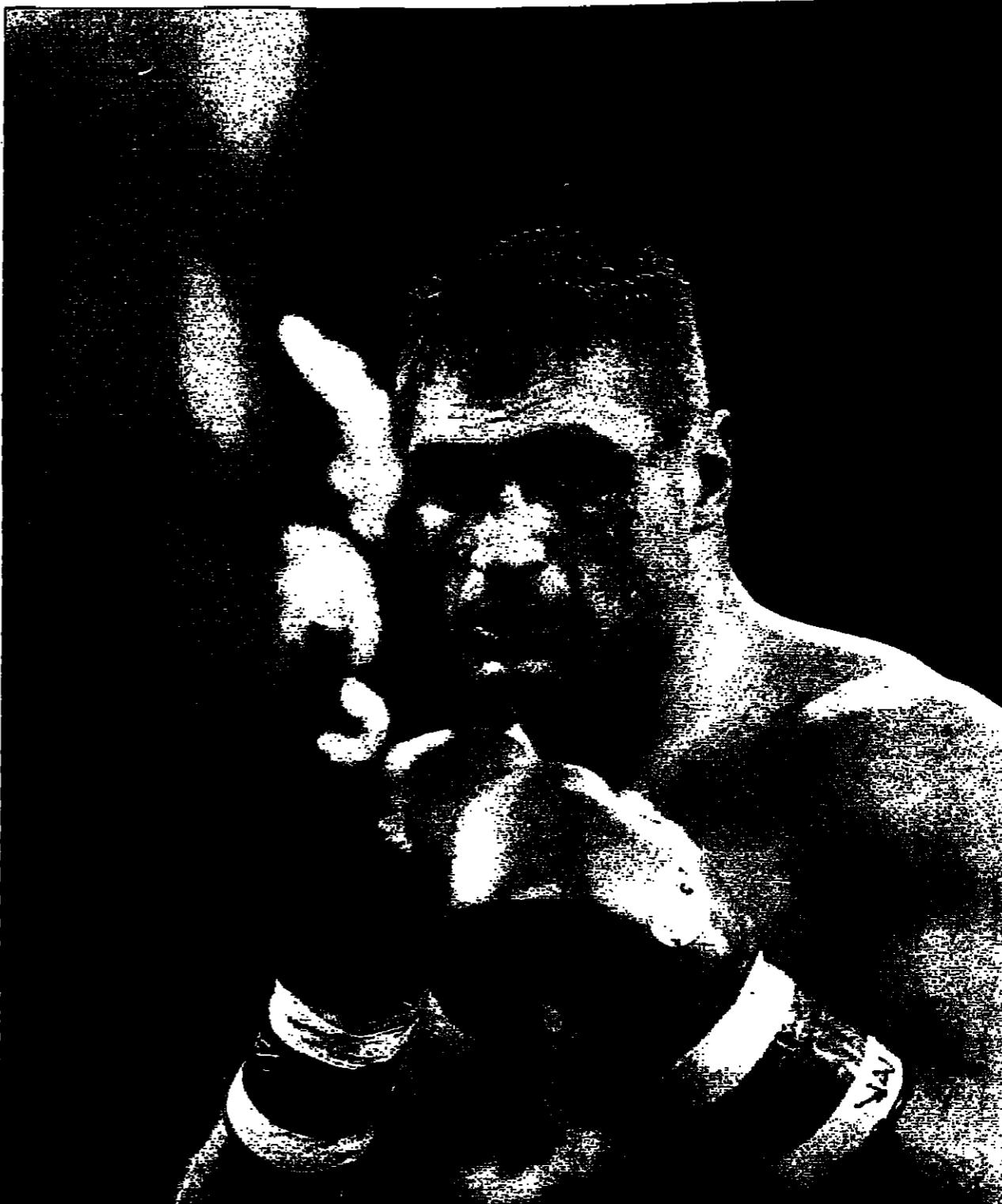
Initially, Golota had no desire to box professionally in America. He considered becoming a truck driver, but fate designed that the US customs agent who handled Golota's immigration, Dick Trindle, was an amateur boxing official who recognised the Seoul Olympian and pointed him towards the Windy City Gym in Chicago.

There, the gym owner, Bob O'Donnell, persuaded him to turn professional and a link was soon formed with the powerful promotional group, Main Event. The New Jersey outfit's patriarch, Lou Duva, became Golota's trainer and co-manager, a role shared with the Polish-American businessman Ziggy Rozalski. O'Donnell having been replaced after the second Bowe fight.

John DeFendis, a former Mr USA, has been employed as a strength coach for Golota's challenge to Lewis, leading to further controversy. Some doubt that the 6ft 4in, 17 and a half stone fighter's bulk comes solely as a result of strenuous sessions in the weights room and the swimming pool. Golota has refused to be drug tested for this fight. "I'm tired of all this media bullshit," he said. "I just want to fight and get my crown."

Mike Boorman, spokesman for Main Event, said: "These accusations can be attributed to one thing, ignorance. As soon as a white guy can fight a little bit, there must be some reason other than the fact he can fight."

Quite how well Golota can fight remains to be seen. But the question should soon be answered.



Andrzej Golota's two fights against Riddick Bowe were particularly brutal

Photograph: Al Bello/Alsport

Atlanta's pitching can prevail in the year of big hitters

It's October, which in America means the baseball play-offs, and the annual question of the 1990s: who can stop Ted Turner's Atlanta Braves winning the World Series? Rupert Cornwell weighs up the form, and also considers how the sport's most famous record improbably survived another year.

This time the pursuers came close. But for all the new and hitter-friendly ball parks, sluggers who are bigger and stronger than ever before, allegedly juiced balls and a league-wide shortage of quality pitching, baseball's blue ribbon remains in the hands of Roger Maris for yet another year.

On Sunday, in the last game of the

regular season, Mark McGwire of the St Louis Cardinals clubbed his 58th homer; a day earlier Ken Griffey Junior had swatted his 56th for the Seattle Mariners. Both marks were the best in 36 years, but still short of the 61 Maris struck in 1961 when he and Mickey Mantle, who hit 54 that year, gave the New York Yankees the most lethal one-two punch in the history of the sport.

But if Griffey failed in his individual quest, the Mariners collectively ran up 264 homers, beating by seven the team record established only last year by the Baltimore Orioles. In the process they captured their second American League West division title in three years and set themselves up as dark horses to go all the way.

In the AL Central, the Cleveland Indians prevailed for the third straight year, while in the East the Orioles and the Yankees again dominated – except that, for the first time since their world championship year

of 1983, it was Baltimore who came out on top. The Orioles, moreover, led on every day of the season, afeat accomplished only six times in baseball history. On each occasion bar one, that team went on to win the World Series.

The Yankees, however, will consider themselves fortunate to have come second. The wild card place brings them up against Cleveland, no pushover but a less daunting proposition than Seattle, where Baltimore opened October hostilities tonight.

Can the Orioles' hitters handle Randy Johnson, the of the 100mph fastball and the most intimidating starting pitcher in the majors? And will Seattle's sluggers be defanged by Baltimore's bullpen, by common consent the best in the business? The sub-plots are fascinating. Regular-season form favours the O's, but the smart money likes Seattle.

However, as in 1991, 1992, 1995

and 1996, it will be a huge surprise

if Atlanta fail to win the National League pennant. The Braves were the only team to win 100 games in the regular season, for which they have been rewarded by a first-round match-up with the Houston Astros, a team-bound bunch indeed, but the least-bad team in a dire NL Central.

As usual Atlanta's trump card is its pitching, and a post-season starting rotation of three former Cy Young winners, augmented by rookie Denny Neagle whose regular season of 20 wins and just four losses may earn him the 1997 prize. The Braves' toughest challenge may come from the wild-card Florida Marlins, who should edge the San Francisco Giants in the first round. Alas, the second round of play-offs for the league championship pennant, is best of seven. Five-game series can be dodgy, but over seven Atlanta's class should be decisive.

And so to the Series. Last year the

Yankees used up a decade's quota of

miracles by first defeating Baltimore, thanks in part to the less than divine intervention of Jeff Maier. He, it will be remembered, was the 12-year-old fan who leant out over the right-field fence at Yankee Stadium to catch an innocuous fly ball. Wrongly, the umpire called it a home run, a mistake which would turn the game and the AL Championship Series. Then they reversed a 0-2 deficit to amaze everyone – including themselves – and defeat the Braves 4-2 in the World Series.

Will it be *deja vu* all over again in 1997? Maybe. The Yankees are the team in form, having won their last eight regular-season games. But something says Seattle. In the World Series though, good pitching almost always beats good hitting. Atlanta, incontrovertibly, is baseball's team of the decade, and the real surprise is that they're only one world championship to show for it. Come the end of the month, it ought to be two.

Branson takes over the Broncos

One of Britain's best-known businessman has taken over as chairman of rugby league's flagship in the capital, the London Broncos. Dave Hadfield was in Richard Branson's garden to see the deal done.

After several weeks of rumour and negotiation, Richard Branson's Virgin group has taken a majority shareholding in the London Broncos – with a promise to make them the best club in the world.

Branson has increased his stake in the club, which finished second in this year's Super League and plays Cronulla in the quarter-finals of the World Club Championship on Sunday, from 15 to 55 per cent.

Speaking at his London home yesterday, he pledged to put the weight of his diverse business empire behind his new interest. "My plan is to convert a lot more Londoners into rugby league fans," he said.

Branson and his family have been regulars at The Stoop since he took his original stake at the start of this year. "I've enjoyed it enormously, but I still feel that rugby league in this country is under-developed – especially in London."

He does not intend to be a "hands-on" chairman in quite the same sense as his predecessor Barry Maranta. "The way we run our companies is to find very good people to run them on a day-to-day basis," he said. "I'll dive in when I'm called for."

Branson clearly believes that he already has good people in

place, because key personnel such as the chief executive, Tony Rea, and the coach, Tony Currie, will remain in place.

Maranta, the founder of the Brisbane Broncos who exported that philosophy to London three years ago, will retain a substantial shareholding but will be free for what he hunted could be another new franchise in Britain – possibly in Wales or Scotland.

His three years have provided a base of playing success for Virgin to build upon, with Branson predicting that London will win both European Super League and the World Club title "within two or three years."

His involvement was also welcomed in a practical way by the Broncos' best known player yesterday, Martin Offiah, who had been dividing his time between the Broncos and rugby union's Bedford, has agreed a new two year, full-time contract.

"I was quite keen on coming back to rugby league anyway, but this made the decision a lot easier," he said of Branson's takeover. "We can now go on to the next level, because when it comes to promoting and marketing anything there is no-one better."

On the down side for the Broncos is the news that tomorrow Shaun Edwards is likely to join the Bradford Bulls, the Super League champions.

The 30-year-old scrum-half ended a 13-year association with Wigan in March to be close to his London-based girlfriend and their new-born baby. But he recently split up with his girlfriend and made it known that he would like a move back to a northern club.

Sponsorship is gloss on Goss's transatlantic ambitions

The exciting pairing of the British sailor and the man he rescued from the forbidding southern ocean, Raphael Dinelli, should bode well for the forthcoming Jacques Vabre race, writes Stuart Alexander.

In sympathy with the great autumn migration, another batch of racing yachtsmen and women gathers in Le Havre at the weekend before the Jacques Vabre two-handed, transatlantic race to Cartagena, Colombo.

However, even Peter Mandleson, the Labour Party spin-doctor, could not fit a dreamer ticket than the teaming of the British yachting hero Pete Goss with the man he rescued from the icy gales of the southern ocean last Boxing Day, the Frenchman Raphael Dinelli.

It was during the 10 days Goss took to ferry Dinelli from his upturned yacht to the safety of Hobart, Tasmania, that the two first talked about yachts. Then they decided to race together.

Dinelli was made famous in France, Goss a member of the Legion d'Honneur and sailed back in Britain. Even so, they have found it difficult to

find sponsorship to enter Goss's British-designed and built 50-footer, renamed BMW Performance in Plymouth yesterday, in the race which starts on 11 October.

With two weeks to go, luck went Goss's way and a five-figure sum was found to complete the refit of the boat and buy some sails.

For the most part Goss has seen life improve. The huge overdrift he incurred to take part in the Vendee Globe single-handed, non-stop round the world race is nearly cleared.

Advances on both a book, to be written next year, and the outline of a film have allowed him to buy for his wife

and two children a new home on his native Cornish side of the Tamar Bridge.

Corporate, entertaining work and personal appearances have also combined to improve his personal circumstances. He continues work started secretly over two years ago to design and build a giant catamaran for The Race, an uncompromising, non-stop circumnavigation that starts on 31 December, 2000.

Next year he will return the compliment for Dinelli by joining him for the Jacques Vabre on the new 60-footer. Dinelli is building in France for the next Vendee Globe.

Goss has even been loaned a BMW which, to his amazement, he found included a television in the dashboard. "We turned it on going home on the ferry the other night," he said yesterday, "and then I thought, 'do I need a licence for this?'"

Goss remains modest, cheerful and approachable, but he also wants to show well in a race where he will have to muster every ounce of concentration and determination if he is to conquer some tough opposition.

Crossing the Bay of Biscay Britain's Mark Turner was lying second in Carphone Warehouse yesterday, despite a problem with his steering gear, three days into the first leg of the Mini

Transat from Brest to Tenerife. Ellen MacArthur, 21 and the only woman in the single-handed race which goes on to Fort de France, Martinique, was lying 33rd in Financial Dynamics.

In light eight to 12 knot north-easterlies, Knut Frostad was increasing his lead in the Whitbread Race, but he was wary of becoming trapped on the wrong side of squalls as the 10-boat fleet heads for the Cape Verde Islands.

WHITBREAD RACE (Leg One, Scilly Isles to the Canary Islands, with return to the finish in Tenerife) 1. 18 West Brom v Oxford 1 2. 19 Cardiff v Barnet 1 3. 20 Coventry v Aston Villa 1 4. 21 Coventry v Leeds 2 5. 22 Manchester Utd v Crystal Palace 1 6. 23 Portsmouth v Liverpool 1 7. 24 Sheffield Wednesday v Everton 1 8. 25 Southampton v West Ham 2 9. 26 Wimbledon v Blackburn 1 10. 27 Preston v Wrexham 1 11. 28 Luton v Watford 2 12. 29 Mansfield v Colchester 1 13. 30 Notts County v Darlington 1

Also playing (not on coupons): Second Division: 14. 31 Birmingham v Aston Villa 1 15. 32 Chester v Hull 1 16. 33 Coventry v Brighton 1 17. 34 Exeter v Southampton 1 18. 35 Hull v Torquay 2 19. 36 Leyton Orient v Macclesfield 2 20. 37 Lincoln v Cambridge 2 21. 38 Millwall v Walsall 1 22. 39 Peterborough v Bury 1 23. 40 Plymouth v Wrexham 1 24. 41 Tamworth v Borehamwood 1 25. 42 Walsall v Grimsby 1

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Division 9. 1 Birmingham v Crewe 1 10. 2 Bradford v Wolves 1 11. 3 Ipswich v Manchester City 2 12. 4 QPR v Charlton 2 13. 5 Reading v Sunderland 2 14. 6 Stockport v Portsmouth 1 15. 7 Stoke v Bury 1 16. 8 Swindon v Port Vale 1

Second Division 17. 17 Tranmere v Norwich 1 18. 18 West Brom v Oxford 1 19. 19 Cardiff v Barnet 1 20. 20 Coventry v Aston Villa 1 21. 21 Chester v Hull 1 22. 22 Exeter v Southampton 1 23. 23 Ipswich v Brighton 1 24. 24 Luton v Watford 2 25. 25 Preston v Wrexham 1 26. 26 Millwall v Blackpool 1 27. 27 Preston v Borehamwood 1 28. 28 Walsall v Grimsby 1 29. 29 Walsall v Darlington 1 30. 30 York v Plymouth 1

Third Division 31. 31 Cardiff v Barnet 1 32. 32 Chester v Hull 1 33. 33 Coventry v Brighton 1 34. 34 Exeter v Southampton 1 35. 35 Hull v Torquay 2 36. 36 Leyton Orient v Macclesfield 2 37. 37 Lincoln v Cambridge 2 38. 38 Millwall v Colchester 1 39. 39 Notts County v Darlington 1

Also playing (not on coupons): Second Division: 1. 40 Birmingham v Aston Villa 1 2. 41 Coventry v Borehamwood 1 3. 42 Exeter v Southampton 1 4. 43 Ipswich v Brighton 1 5. 44 Luton v Watford 2 6. 45 Peterborough v Bury 1 7. 46 Tamworth v Borehamwood 1 8. 47 Walsall v Grimsby 1 9. 48 Walsall v Darlington 1 10. 49 Walsall v Port Vale 1

First Division 45. 45 Ayr v Stirling Albion 2 46. 46 Dundee v Airdrie 1 47. 47 Morton v Rutherglen 2 48. 48 Hamilton v St Mirren 1 49. 49 Partick v Falkirk 1

Division One: 1. 50 Bradford v Walsall 1 2. 51 Birmingham v Coventry 1 3. 52 Bristol City v Wrexham 1 4. 53 Bristol Rovers v Walsall 1 5. 54 Bristol City v Walsall 1 6. 55 Bristol City v Walsall 1 7. 56 Bristol City v Walsall 1 8. 57 Bristol City v Walsall 1 9. 58 Bristol City v Walsall 1 10. 59 Bristol City v Walsall 1

Division Two: 1. 60 Bradford v Walsall 1 2. 61 Bristol City v Walsall 1 3. 62 Bristol City v Walsall 1 4. 63 Bristol City v Walsall 1 5. 64 Bristol City v Walsall 1 6. 65 Bristol City v Walsall 1 7. 66 Bristol City v Walsall 1 8. 67 Bristol City v Walsall 1 9. 68 Bristol City v Walsall 1 10. 69 Bristol City v Walsall 1

Division Three: 1. 70 Bristol City v Walsall 1 2. 71 Bristol City v Walsall 1 3.

Embassy raises standard

Sheikh Mohammed's Embassy looked very impressive in winning the Cheveley Park Stakes yesterday and, as Richard Edmondson reports from Newmarket, probably earned herself a place in the sun this winter.

To ensure he won the Cheveley Park Stakes here yesterday, Sheikh Mohammed bought the opposition. He need not have bothered.

Cape Verdi, one of three fillies the Sheikh purchased from Robert Sangster for the Godolphin harem, could finish only fourth as the favourite for the Group One contest, City Honours. If there is a loser in this transaction, it is Sangster's trainer, Peter Chapman-Hyam, who administers a Manton yard that is increasingly becoming a prep school polishing youngsters for other establishments.

The trainer said he was disappointed with Cape Verdi's performance yesterday but that she would be a transformed animal when tried over a mile on fast ground. "She will be back here next year in the winners' enclosure [after the 1,000 Guineas]," he said.

There was nothing substantial about Cape Verdi yesterday as the field patrolled the paddock in drizzle under squirrel-grey skies. Embassy, on the other hand, displayed one of

Loder was probably practising his genuflexion in front of the mirror last night. Embassy looked mightily good.

Sangster has sold smashing horses, such as Carnegie and Balanchine, to the Sheikh in the past and said he could not refuse an offer for this current batch, which also includes the Derby prospect, City Honours. If there is a loser in this transaction, it is Sangster's trainer, Peter Chapman-Hyam, who administers a Manton yard that is increasingly becoming a prep school polishing youngsters for other establishments.

The trainer said he was disappointed with Cape Verdi's performance yesterday but that she would be a transformed animal when tried over a mile on fast ground. "She will be back here next year in the winners' enclosure [after the 1,000 Guineas]," he said.

There was nothing substantial about Cape Verdi yesterday as the field patrolled the paddock in drizzle under squirrel-grey skies. Embassy, on the other hand, displayed one of

those backsides you hope never to see coming down the aircraft aisle when there is an adjacent empty seat.

Loder's filly did not move with any great conviction for much of the six-furlong contest, however, as she was caught on the inside, in a cage of runners. When Kieren Fallon detected a fissure, though, the response:

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Arruhu
(Newcastle 4.15)
NB: Goretex
(Newcastle 4.45)

from his conveyance was compelling. "She really has got that tremendous acceleration and she kills off the opposition with it," Loder said. "Going into the race I had my doubts whether she would stay a mile because in all her races she has given me the impression you could run her over five if you wanted to."

"But today she was more relaxed in behind, switched off, and Kieren felt there was every chance she would get a mile. I needed this because I've

had so much off the bridle he was having to keep her up to her work and in terms of getting a mile that's ideal."

Loder gave much of the credit for this victory to Embassy's work rider, Robert Edmondson, the former champion apprentice. This was hardly surprising as the jockey comes from a most noble family.

The money event of the day, the Tattersalls Houghton Sales Stakes, went to Roger Charlton, who earned a working man's salary in the sub-90 seconds it took to run the bonus race. The Beckhampton trainer saddled the first and second, Tamarisk and Sapphire Ring, who earned over £200,000 between them. Roger looked rather pleased.

Tamarisk, in particular, looked a colt with other considerable paydays ahead of him and Charlton's first task will be to persuade his owners to release the £15,000 it will take to supplement the horse for the Dewhurst Stakes. "He wasn't entered originally because we just aimed to run in this race

from the moment he was bought," the trainer said. "He should stay a mile so obviously we will aim at the Guineas and we can dream through the winter. I think he's a proper horse."

"I needed this because I've



Embassy (right) takes the rails route to win at Newmarket yesterday. Photograph: Peter Jackson

had a lot of scrubbers running at Catterick," Sheikh Mohammed is not interested in those.

1998 2,000 GUINEAS: Contd: 6-1 Embassy; 10-1 Jezo; 14-1 Cape Verdi; 16-1 D'Orsay; 18-1 Embassy; 19-1 Embassy; 20-1 Embassy; 21-1 Embassy; 22-1 Embassy; 23-1 Embassy; 24-1 Embassy; 25-1 Embassy; 26-1 Embassy; 27-1 Embassy; 28-1 Embassy; 29-1 Embassy; 30-1 Embassy; 31-1 Embassy; 32-1 Embassy; 33-1 Embassy; 34-1 Embassy; 35-1 Embassy; 36-1 Embassy; 37-1 Embassy; 38-1 Embassy; 39-1 Embassy; 40-1 Embassy; 41-1 Embassy; 42-1 Embassy; 43-1 Embassy; 44-1 Embassy; 45-1 Embassy; 46-1 Embassy; 47-1 Embassy; 48-1 Embassy; 49-1 Embassy; 50-1 Embassy; 51-1 Embassy; 52-1 Embassy; 53-1 Embassy; 54-1 Embassy; 55-1 Embassy; 56-1 Embassy; 57-1 Embassy; 58-1 Embassy; 59-1 Embassy; 60-1 Embassy; 61-1 Embassy; 62-1 Embassy; 63-1 Embassy; 64-1 Embassy; 65-1 Embassy; 66-1 Embassy; 67-1 Embassy; 68-1 Embassy; 69-1 Embassy; 70-1 Embassy; 71-1 Embassy; 72-1 Embassy; 73-1 Embassy; 74-1 Embassy; 75-1 Embassy; 76-1 Embassy; 77-1 Embassy; 78-1 Embassy; 79-1 Embassy; 80-1 Embassy; 81-1 Embassy; 82-1 Embassy; 83-1 Embassy; 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Defence, midfield and attack are the only worries for Ferguson

Injury looks likely to deprive Manchester United of their captain, Roy Keane, against Juventus at Old Trafford tonight. Glenn Moore believes his absence could be crucial.

Manchester United learned long ago that, to borrow a phrase from down the East Lancs Road, "money can't buy love". Yesterday, like many a millionaire, they were reminded that it cannot buy health and luck either. Barely hours after the club revealed record profits of £27m last year, United were forced to admit that their inspirational captain, Roy Keane, is very unlikely to play

in tonight's Champions' League match against Juventus at Old Trafford.

Keane looks to have paid a heavy price for apparently aiming a kick at Alf-Inge Halland of Leeds on Saturday. Having fallen awkwardly, his right knee has become swollen and, according to his manager, Alex Ferguson, "he is very doubtful". The feeling is he is more than doubtful and there are fears that the injury could be serious.

The timing could hardly be worse. United did achieve some significant results without Keane last season, but not against teams with the quality of Juventus. Although Ferguson's options are increased by the return to fitness of Nicky Butt and Ryan Giggs they are likely to be short of experience for the crucial midfield contest with Zinedine Zidane and Didier Deschamps.

Ronnie Johnsen, having only completed his first 36 minutes' action this season as a substitute at Leeds, is unlikely to start.

"It is a blow, but not a massive blow," Ferguson insisted. "We have other players who can come in and we have won without him before. It will be important to get the midfield right. Juventus are very powerful."

This is not United's only problem area. Injuries have prevented Ferguson finding an established attacking partnership; Andy Cole, Teddy Sheringham, Ole Gunnar Solskjær, Paul Scholes and Jordi Cruyff have all been tried. "We have not had continuity," Ferguson said. "Teddy would have liked to have been able to play regularly with someone. His injury came at a

bad time. We have to score tomorrow. If we do we have a great chance."

Having conceded just four goals all season, you would have thought Ferguson would at least feel consoled by the form of his defence. Not at all. "We've made a few errors there recently," he said.

Not that Juventus are in perfect shape. Angelo Di Livio is suspended and they arrive fresh from a fortunate draw with Sampdoria. They remain, however, the ultimate test for United.

Borussia Dortmund defeated the Italian champions in last year's European Cup final but, for Ferguson, Juventus are still Europe's best. "We are underdogs which is unusual but fair enough," Ferguson said. "They are at the level we want to reach. That's my ambition. My chairman would love him."

The heirs to Ravanelli and Vialli, and Vieri and Bokšić, are Alessandro Del Piero and Filippo Inghazi. "He's replaced two powerful strikers with two very quick ones," Ferguson added.

The Italians are not short of return compliments. "They are the supreme example of English football and are probably the most creative side in England," Lippi said. "Old Trafford is a wonderful stadium and the atmosphere will be electric."

Ciro Ferrara, the Italian international centre-half, added: "They will miss Eric Cantona, but we must not forget he was supported by a great team. Manchester United are superb on the wings with great forwards, especially Sheringham. Though I could be marking him in Rome, comparisons between Juventus and Italy don't work. Technically they are very different teams."

All the same, it would be a considerable lift if United could strike a pre-emptive blow for England.

Manchester United (probable): Schmeichel; Sherrill, Berg, Pekarik, Irwin; Beckford, Butt, Scholes, Giggs; Sheringham, Solksjær; Paruzzi, Binienda, Pernar, Molteni, Dorni; Pecchia, Deschamps, Zidane, Inghazi; Del Piero, Krzak.

United to launch TV channel, page 23

Buckley hoping Grimsby's best side wins out

Alan Buckley takes his Jekyll and Hyde side Grimsby to Sheffield Wednesday tonight not knowing which character will emerge.

Buckley has been left perplexed by the Mariners' inconsistency this season, particularly after outplaying David Pleat's team at Blundell Park two weeks ago for a 2-0 win in the Coca-Cola Cup second round, first leg.

Grimsby then suffered a home defeat against Millwall, followed by Saturday's 1-0 success at Bournemouth – only their second win in the Second Division this season to leave them in 20th place.

Buckley is convinced his side can give Wednesday a run for their money in the return at Hillsborough to set up a third-round home tie against the holders, Leicester.

The Town boss, in his second managerial spell with the club after six years at the helm between 1988 and 1994, said: "We had a terrific result in the first game. I'm sure David Pleat would acknowledge we deserved it."

"I know we can't play any better than we did then, but I just hope we can achieve that same level again. But they've got to chase the game, so we are expecting a bit of a blitz."

"We will set our stall out to play well, although we are very inconsistent at the moment. It doesn't worry me but it can be a bit difficult to understand."

Peter Handyside is Buckley's main injury doubt with badly bruised ribs, while John McDermott and Steve Livingstone are expected to play despite ankle and knee problems respectively.

Plent, under pressure after Wednesday's poor start to the season, is hoping his side can build on Saturday's 2-2 draw at Aston Villa.

"I just hope we can continue to work and improve and pass the ball like we did on Saturday, because I want people to do well. If they can do that then I'll be delighted."

Andy Booth and Graham Hyde are still sidelined, while Kevin Pressman, Peter Atherton, Patrick Blondéau and David Hirst remain doubtful.

Dave Linighan, Blackpool's captain, faces another late fitness test as his side aim to complete their Coca-Cola Cup giant-killing of Coventry City.

Linighan played with a sore ankle two weeks ago to score the only goal of the first leg at Bloomfield Road and now the 32-year-old centre-back is doubtful after he broke his nose against Southend at the weekend.

The Coventry midfielde

Paul Telfer looks certain to miss out with an ankle injury suffered at Blackburn on Sunday.

Derby take a 1-0 lead into their second leg against Southend at Pride Park, but their manager, Jim Smith, is taking nothing for granted.

"We all tend to be a little bit apprehensive by nature as managers and we don't want to say that we will have no problems because football is not always like that," he said.

Derby bring in Dean Sturridge and Aljosa Asanovic to sharpen their match fitness and rest their Italian pair Stefano Erani and Francesco Biavio.

Everton's task against Scunthorpe at Goodison Park looks easy as they lead 1-0 from the first leg, but their manager, Howard Kendall, urged caution.

"I've selected many good sides on paper, but it all depends on how they play when they go out there," he said. "It's important that we go out with a professional attitude."

Duncan Ferguson is still out with a calf problem so Nick Barmby deputises while Tony Thomas replaces Earl Barrett in defence.

Parma's experienced Argentinian midfielder Nestor Sensini says his side must beat Turkey's Galatasaray in tonight's Champions' League home tie to stay on course for a quarter-final place.

Parma, who finished second last season to Juventus in Serie A, are experienced European campaigners having won the 1993 Cup-Winners' Cup and the 1995 Uefa Cup.

In their opening Group A game two weeks ago they were held to a 0-0 away draw by Sparta Prague and Sensini believes they must now take full points in their home games in a group dominated by the reigning champions, Borussia Dortmund.

"This is a game that we must win at all costs. We simply cannot lose any more ground in this group," he said.

"In the meantime let's hope that Sparta Prague cause problems for Borussia in the other tie."

Parma come into the game in confident mood following a 4-0 win against Udinese on Saturday which took them to

second in the league, two points behind Internazionale.

The Parma coach, Carlo Ancelotti, has to make one team change, bringing in Mauro Milanesi for the suspended Antonio Benarruia at left-back.

Galatasaray warmed up for the tie with an easy 4-1 home win over second-bottom Sakerspor on Saturday and after eight matches lie fourth, seven points behind the leaders.

Galatasaray should be even more desperate for points than Parma since they were unlucky in a 1-0 home loss in their opening tie against Dortmund.

The Turkish side will be without their influential Romanian midfielder Gheorghe Hagi, whose father who died last weekend. His compatriot Gheorghe Popescu takes Hagi's place.

The Turkish international Hakan Sukur leads the Galatasaray attack alongside another Romanian Adrian Ilie.

Parma (probable): Buffon, Maroc, Cenac, Bocca, Cossu, Cossu, Baggio, Sensini, Sestini, Crespo, Cossu.

Galatasaray (probable): Kılıç, Davala, Akyel, Karim, Ünsal, Popescu, Parbe, Karimoglu, Iğn, Sukur, Ilie.

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Great expectations: Valery Lobanovsky, the man charged with putting Dynamo Kiev back on the European football map

Photograph: Popperfoto

Lobanovsky the man to make Dynamo dynamic again

The task Newcastle United face today could hardly be more daunting. Not only do they tackle a confident Dynamo Kiev side led by Alan Shearer, but, as Oleg Rasmussen reveals, a crowd of 100,000 and the will of a nation desperate to make its mark after centuries in Russia's shadow.

Thirty years ago, Dynamo Kiev made their European Cup debut against Celtic, then managed by the legendary Jock Stein. The almost unknown team from the Soviet Union caused a sensation by knocking out the cup holders, beating them 2-1 in Glasgow and drawing 1-1 in Kiev, capital of Ukraine.

Back in the Sixties, Dynamo were on a high as they became not only the first non-Russian team to win the Soviet League title, but also the league and cup double. Winning three league titles in succession, as they did from 1967-69, had been unthinkable in a league dominated by Russian sides.

The victory over Celtic was a glorious moment for a club who had been made famous by tragedy – the "Match of

Death", which took place in German-occupied Kiev in 1942. Dynamo players were challenged to play a German Luftwaffe team, and despite threats and the desire of the German airmen to prove themselves the better side, Dynamo won. All the Ukrainian players were executed. Today, at the side of the cosy, 30,000-capacity Dynamo Stadium in the centre of the city, there is a monument to the players who died.

After the war, Dynamo rose again to win 13 Soviet League titles, and the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1975 and 1986. They have also twice reached the European Cup semi-finals.

Having dominated Ukrainian football since the first independent championships were held in 1992, they are desperate to return to the heady days of European success.

Although there were some moments to savour, namely the 3-1 defeat of visiting Barcelona in 1993 while down to 10 men, this decade saw Dynamo in disgrace.

Their first game in the 1995 Champions' League against Panathinaikos saw two Dynamo officials attempt to bribe the referee. Uefa banned the duo for life and threw Dynamo out of the competition.

Now, however, things seem to be going Dynamo's way. The architect of their success in the Seventies and Eighties was coach Valeri Lobanovsky, who won lasting adulation in his homeland as the Ukrainian who fought the big Russian bear.

Having fought the big Russian bear, the Ukrainian team, who have made their presence

felt in Northern Ireland's World Cup qualifying group, Newcastle could find seven home internationals lining up against them in the Olímpíski stadium, which the club hire for big European matches.

Usually for an eastern European club, Dynamo have managed to keep their best talent. The 21-year-old striker Andriy Shevchenko – who was likened by Brian Hamilton, the Northern Ireland manager to a young Alan Shearer – turned down a £10.8m bid from Milan.

Yuri Maximov and Serhiy Rebrov would also not look out of place at a major European club.

They stay because Surikov looks after his players. "They are not deprived of earning big money," he said. They are also passionate about winning with a Ukrainian club and thereby putting their proud and recently independent country of 51 million on the map.

"For me," the striker Rebrov, said, "the challenge is to beat the big Western guns while playing for my Ukrainian club."

Shevchenko agreed. "Dynamo have to bring joy and pride back to Ukrainians," he said.

Newcastle kicked off their Champions' League campaign with a 3-2 home win against Barcelona, while Dynamo overcame PSV Eindhoven 3-1. Tonight there is everything to play for and Kiev will be no place for chickens."

Dutch coaches under pressure in crucial 'Group of Death' meeting

The favourites in Group C of the Champions' League, Barcelona and PSV Eindhoven, both lost their first matches. They meet tonight desperate to kick-start their campaign.

PSV are the best side in Group C, knows both teams need a win to keep alive their hopes of qualifying from the so-called "Group of Death".

PSV, former European Cup holders like Barcelona, also lost their opening game, slumping to a 3-1 defeat at home to the Ukrainian team, Dynamo Kiev. "PSV are better than Barcelona," Van Gaal said. "They've been playing together for over a year."

Van Gaal thinks his side, who have a 100 per cent record in the Spanish league, have improved since their defeat at Newcastle.

"We've made progress since the first game but concentrating for 90 minutes is very difficult," he said.

PSV will be without injured midfielders, Marc Overmars and Igor Demet, striker Eidur Gudjohnsen and defender Stan Valckx, who hurt his shoulder a week ago after he fell off his mountain bike.

The last meeting between

the two sides gave another Dutchman, Johan Cruyff, his last big win in eight years as Barcelona coach.

In March 1996 the

Spaniards were struggling before a superb individual goal by defender Sergi Barjuan earned them a place in the Uefa Cup semi-finals.

"I'd love to be able to do it again but it will be difficult," Sergi said. "A defeat would leave the losing team practically out of it... and would provoke a lot of consequences."

Advocaat and Van Gaal are only too aware of the kind of consequences an early exit from the Champions' League can have on the job of a manager.

BARCELONA (probable): Rivaldo, Hagi, Sergi Barjuan, Michael Reiziger, Miguel Angel Nadal, Albert Celades, Luis Enrique, Ivan de la Peña, Guillermo Amor, Riveda, Luis Figo, Juan Pizzi.

PSV to be announced.

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